



AD-VISOR



The Newsletter of the Birkenhead Institute Old Boys

Issue 19, Autumn 2014

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This is an open forum, members are encouraged to express their views here. Matters expressed in this newsletter are the views of the individuals who submit them, they are not necessarily the views of the Editor or the organisers of the BIOB.

Message from Harry Burkett

I have to inform you that I am unable to continue in my capacity as organiser of the Old Boys Association.

My eyesight has been deteriorating for several years with macular degeneration and has now reached a serious stage.

Keith Dutton who has been a great help to me over several years, has agreed to take over my duties for me, and to say that if I can be of any help he has only to ask.

It only remains for me to say what a pleasure it has been to organise the Old Boys for the last 14/15 years, and to thank everyone for the help and encouragement that has been always their gift to me.

Thank you all.

Harry.

I would like to say a few words at this point, Harry has worked extremely hard on behalf of the BIOB for many years, having taken over from Harold Beckett at very short notice, and I would like to thank him, on behalf of all the members, for guiding us through this period.

Editor - Keith Dutton (1960-63)

Updates

If you've received this in paper format, through the mail system, then please consider sending me an email address, where I can contact you. This will enable me to contact you much quicker, and to save money for the BIOB. I will not be able to send snail mail letters when members drop off the perch, kick the bucket, or pop their clogs, but I will try to send an email, to you that is, not to them.

In the case of members who receive this in paper format through the mail system, and who have already given me their email address, then it's probably because you've forgotten to send me your new email address!

For Discussion

It has been suggested that we could open the doors of the Annual Dinner to non-Old Boys. Let me know what you're thinking. It doesn't have to be an immediate decision, certainly not for this year, but maybe we could do something next year. If we do, we need to work out some rules. Anyway, let me know your thoughts. Editor@BIOB.co.uk

Ingleborough Road

Once again, we have Alun Hughes to thank for the unbelievable work rate that he has put in with regard to Ingleborough Road. As we mentioned last time, Alun works full time but he spends a considerable amount of his spare time fighting against the odds for this cause. His latest report follows:-

I have been asked to write a short note to let readers know what the latest position is with this matter and it is difficult to know where to start and where to draw the line between fact, fiction, speculation and prejudice. It is a story of greed, corruption, expediency, blindness, indifference, hypocrisy and shame. Make of it what you will.

At the last Planning Committee meeting many of us and in particular the representatives of Tranmere Rovers FC were under the impression that the decision would be to accept the recommendation of the Planning Officers and consign the memory of those brave men who gave their lives for this Country, to the pages of history.

We were all a little surprised therefore that the decision was left hanging in the air while Councillors agreed to a site visit to inspect both our former playing fields, but also the proposed site for the replacement playing fields needing to be provided, as justification for the loss of any such existing provision. That site is now not in Woodchurch as originally planned in 2012, but instead at the former school playing fields at the Council owned Solar Campus in Leasowe.

What emerged later, was that the Planning Officer had, in her report to Councillors misled them in the opinions expressed by Sport England, a Government Agency whose support is crucial for the agreement to loss of any playing fields. In both the original planning application in 2012 and also in this case, Sport England required the Planners to submit their proposed report to them before the Planning Committee meeting. In both cases they had failed to do so, but this time around we made sure that they did see and this led to Sport England withdrawing the approval they had given. This would have left any decision made to approve on the night open to legal challenge.

We had in the lead up to the meeting, written to residents on the Tranmere Hall Estate setting out our position and objections. We pointed out how they had been misled by TRFC and tricked into accepting that there was no alternative but to have the fields changed into housing. Many residents have felt that they have been bullied into supporting the plans of TRFC, who told them (amongst other things) that floodlighting for any retained playing fields there was absolutely essential, when it has not in fact featured in their latest proposals.

We also wrote to residents in Leasowe, similarly explaining our position and pointing out how the Planners were going to the very extent of their legal authority to make a very poorly presented and ill thought out proposal for the Solar Campus, a reality. In particular they have allowed TRFC to drip feed information in support of their planning application and change matters materially making the process of consultation largely irrelevant.

It appears that TRFC have sold the playing fields to Bellway Homes, but undoubtedly this will be subject to Planning Consent being obtained and it may be expected that this will follow later this month. An absolute requirement of Sport England, that the replacement playing fields should be operational before development can be allowed to start at Ingleborough appears to have been

put aside because of the lie they have been told, that the playing fields there have not been used for 2 years. This can only have come from the Planners who have admitted in writing already to Sport England that it is important for the Council that TRFC be allowed to develop Solar Campus.

It is clear that the proposals are not wanted by local people at either site but the Planners are Hell bent on pushing them through despite that. For the Planners to have done what they have, it can only be imagined that they have received backing from the highest authority to do so. The Council is Labour controlled and all the Councillors representing residents in Ingleborough Road and Leasowe are Labour.

The only remaining hurdle, is for the Council to release the Restrictive Covenants they hold on Ingleborough Road preventing any other use than that existing (and for that matter floodlighting). In its decision to approve such a release in March last year it instructed its Officers to enter into talks with Old Boys to agree a suitable memorial but we have had nothing by way of a response...yet.

Apart from regular articles in the Wirral Globe there has been no interest from the national press or the BBC to this affront to the memory of the Fallen despite the irony of this coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the Great War.

We still have ideas for how to further challenge and frustrate the plans of TRFC. We need to get the Council to recognise its obligations to the community and our armed forces. Failing this we will try to work with developers of the site to see what scope exists for a better memorial than the cheap 'skateboard ramp' considered by the owner of TRFC, a latter-day war profiteer, to be the least he can get away with. If the opportunity to work for peace is not taken at this time we can be assured that this war will not be over by Christmas.

Alun Hughes (1966-73)

Notes from 'A Tale of two Brothers'

Wirral Journal Vol. 14 No. 1 Spring, 2008

Brian and Susan Nicholson

Their Father's and Uncles experiences during the first World War., taken from Grandfather's wartime diary entries.

When 11 year's old Wilfred Own was enrolled as a pupil at Birkenhead Institute on September 13th 1904, while living at 51 Milton Road, among the new intake of pupils alongside him was 10 years John Nicholson who was living nearby at 4 Charlecombe Street in Tranmere. Neither was to know what lay ahead at the start of the First World War. Much of Wilfred Owen's subsequent contribution to what has been described as the Great War has been well documented.

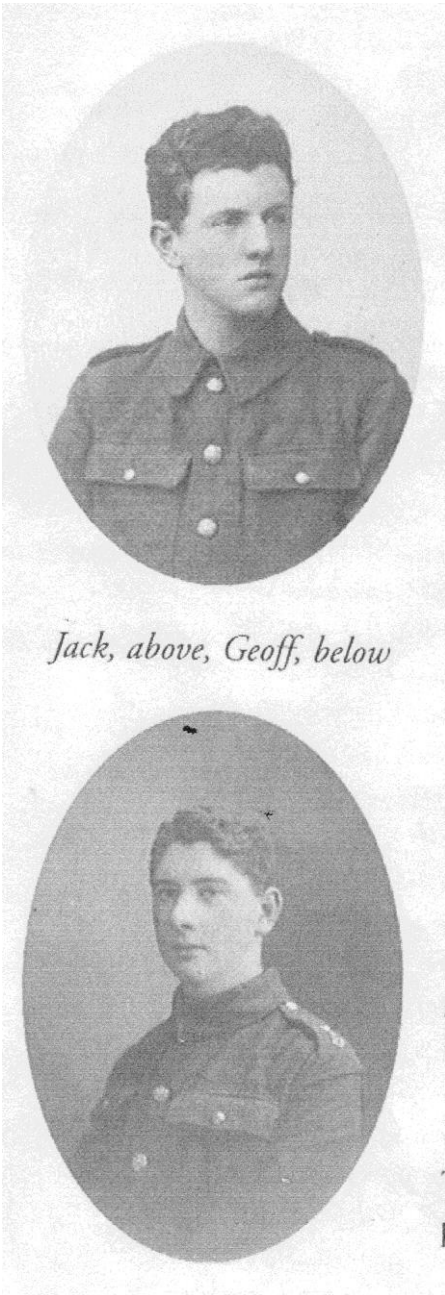
In an article published in the Wirral Journal Vol. 1, No. 14 in 2008 Brian and Susan Nicholson recounted the story of their father and uncles experiences during what was later to be remembered as the Great War. At the outbreak of the War on 4th August 1914, John, or Jack as he was known as by the family was a 20 year old clerk working in the Treasurer's Office in Birkenhead Town Hall. Like many other young men of his age, he volunteered for active service and was assigned to the 4th Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment which on July 15th 1915, sailed with other troops to Alexandria in July 1915, en route for the Dardenelles.

John's younger brother Geoff, a clerk at Lever Brothers in Port Sunlight also served in the war but due to War Office Policy, introduced after devastating family and 'Pals' losses he was not allowed to serve alongside his brother. Geoff was posted to the 24th Battalion (City of London Company), Royal Fusiliers

Later in combat action Jack was injured and was invalided from Gallipoli to a hospital on Malta and afterwards to convalescence back in England. His injuries disqualified him from further service. He was then appointed Assistant Quartermaster at the Command Depot at Heaton Park, Manchester.

In 1918 as the War was seen to be coming to an end, Geoff was granted home leave, but just before he reached the house in Higher Tranmere, his sister, May, ran down the road to meet him with the news that Jack had died of the Spanish flu in the Military Hospital, West Didsbury, Manchester, on 9th of November 1918, two days before the Armistice.

Jack's name (William John Michael Nicholson) is inscribed on the War Memorial in Hamilton Square Birkenhead



123 WIRKHAM ARCHIVES 8 | 370 | 6 | 13 Pupil Register 1901-1908
BIRKENHEAD INSTITUTE,

Year of Birth	NAME	Address	Age	Date of Birth
187	Jeff			
187	Michl Oscar	100, Old Church Rd. Off Mural	11	Jan 15
188	James Nelson Jack E	26 Holly Bank J. Nelson	13	Jan 10
189	Nichols John Robt Stanley	Woodhead Farm, New Ferry Robt Burns Nichols	13	Nov 12
187	Nicholson John	4 Charleston St, W. Nicholson	10	Sep. 29
188	Mason John	31, Park Rd. E. J. J. Mason	15	June 20
188	Mason Ronald Cluff	11, Blaughton Inst O. J. Mason	14	Sept 24
183	Owen Fred Kirk	The 2nd Courts, Bebington 137 N. Owen	15	May 16
184	Owen Wilfred S. J.	51 Milton Rd.	11	Mid 18
185	Owen Harold	The Owen	7	
186	Owen Wm	218 Conway St. A. J. Owen	13	Mar. 26
187	Owen Chas Albert	60 Willmer Rd. R. A. Owen	16	Apr. 16
185	Pommiter Chas Philip	80 Bebington Rd. Philip J. Pommiter	15	Jan 27
	Notice Owen			

Birkenhead Institute's Pupil Register 1904

Cufflinks and Tie Tack/Lapel Badge.

As previously mentioned, the new style Cufflinks and Tie Tack/Lapel Badge are now available. Cufflinks are £10 pair, Tie-Tack/Lapel Badges are £5 each. We still have the Dave Jones designed Ties available at £10 each. Postage and packing is £2 per order. I will have them with me at the dinner, so if you want to save the postage, you could buy them there.



Cufflinks – (£10 Pair)



Tie Tack/Lapel badge (£5 each)



Tie – (£10 each)

As a further additional option, you can now order your Cufflinks and Tie Tack/Lapel Badge, and Tie through **PayPal™**, and have them before the dinner. Same prices as above. Send the payments for the Cufflinks, the Tie Tack/Lapel Badge, or the Tie, to Purchase@BIOB.co.uk. Be sure to include your name and the postal address as a reference. Postage is £2 per order, so make sure you add £2 to one of the items if you're ordering the full set.

Obituary

Bill Johnson (1953-60)
Ian MacMaster (1953-60)
Vic Swift (1956-61)
Eric Jackson (1939-44)

Old Instonians Golf Society 2014 Pyke Cup

Last year (2013) the Pyke Cup was again played for at Caldy G.C. and the competition was won by Arthur Howarth. This year the competition will take place on the afternoon of October 3rd before the Dinner at the Golf Club. It is an excellent afternoon's golf on a well prepared course.

As usual, it is anticipated that a special green fee in the order of £20 for non-members (of Caldy G.C.), as charged last year, can be arranged with the Club for this year's competition.

It will take the form of a Stapleford Competition with full Handicap. Tee times available from 1.00pm to 2.00pm.

As usual, those wishing to play this year can contact the organiser, Arthur Howarth, by email at:- arthur.howarth@btinternet.com or on 0151 336 1026. If out, leave your details on his answer phone and Arthur will get back to you. Don't forget to leave your own phone number.

The golf is a pleasant outing in good company and enjoyed by all that play.

Don't forget the BIOB website www.BIOB.co.uk

Harry mentioned to me that someone had volunteered to speak at this year's dinner, unfortunately, he can't remember who it was! If that person was you, then please let me know Editor@BIOB.co.uk

It would be really useful if someone could take over the website from me. I don't really have the time to do a more professional job at the moment. So, if anyone has the skills, the time, and the inclination, please let me know. Editor@BIOB.co.uk

As you know, we don't make a charge for membership. We fund the very low running costs through donations, and through the small profit we make on selling the ties, cufflinks etc., we are doing okay at the moment, but if you would like to make a donation to BIOB then just send me a cheque, made out to BIOB, at 11 Fininstall Road, Wirral, CH63 9YW. Alternatively, you could send a donation through **PayPal**, to Donations@BIOB.co.uk.

Finally, any news, that could be of interest to Old Boys, any news of passing Old Boys, any updates to your addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, please keep me in the loop. This will ensure our records are updated, and other members are updated where appropriate.

Keith Dutton (1960-63) Editor@BIOB.co.uk

Annual Dinner 2014

The annual dinner will be held at Caldy Golf Club on Friday October 3th. The price is being maintained at £28.00. Please complete the Application Form to be found at the end of this Newsletter and return it to me as soon as possible. (or use **PayPal**™ see below).

As usual, we want friends to be seated together. If you let me know who you would like to be seated next to, I'll do my best to see that it happens. Otherwise you are likely to be seated with your contemporaries. If there are too many for one table, I will make sure that the tables are adjacent.

Please make sure the cheque is made out to **B.I.O.B.**



If you would prefer, we can now accept payment by **PayPal**™, send your payment through **PayPal**™ to Dinner@BIOB.co.uk, make sure you include the name(s) of the attendees as a reference. I will confirm by email receipt of funds. You could then send the details below by email to Webmaster@BIOB.co.uk

Just to be clear, this **PayPal**™ option is in addition to all the normal options.

APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER

Please return the completed form to :-

Keith Dutton
11 Fininstall Road
Wirral
CH63 9YW



I will/will not be attending the Dinner at Caldy Golf Club on Friday October 3th 2014
Time 6.30pm for 7.30pm.

(For those attending please enclose a cheque for **£28.00** 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)

SCHOOL YEARS AT B.I. (To arrange SEATING Plan).....

Any Special Dietary Requirements.....

Any Special Seating Requirements.....

