

Sports

Hockey

To mark Old Blue's Day 2008 a merry band of 5 Old Blues turned up to play hockey against the School's 1st XI. Annabel Passmore, Charlie Michael, and Annie and Jemma Charman joined Bethan Keall for the occasion. 3 current pupils joined us Old Blues to complete an eight-a-side team, so big thanks to Rachel Fisher, Miffy Fisher and Catherine Lee.

Given that we were a scratch side and have not played seriously for years, we did really well. We made the school team work hard and although fitness levels weren't what they were, our team had more shots on goal in the 1st half.

After the School team scored their first goal we fought hard and through Lee and Charlie up front we pulled level. That's how the score stayed for pretty much the rest of the match. Annabel at the back was definitely (wo)man of the match.

Rachel played a great centre half spreading the play long and wide for the attack. Unfortunately we were unable to score again and just before the final whistle the School team slipped a tentative goal shot past the goalie (who we must thank for spreading her loyalty between the two teams, playing the 2nd half for us).

It was great fun to play at school once again and many thanks to Bethan for organising it all. Our next match will be followed by the Summer Ball on the 20th Sept, which, if last years is anything to go by, will be a great night.

If you would like to join us for the 20th September match please e-mail Emma White whitel95@gmail.com or Bethan Keall bethankeall@hotmail.com or post a message on facebook page 'Old Blues Sporting Association'.

Annie Charman

Golf Society

- Captain – *Donald Payne*
- President – *David Spackman*
- Hon Sec – *Rosemary Adkins*

Masters Match

The Masters were unable to raise a team for Slinfold in April but the event went ahead with invited guests. The winners were: Frank Brown (John Winterbotham's Guest. 2nd Sean O Boyle & 3rd Richard Charlesworth. Nearest the Pin Frank Brown. Sean O Boyle, the only master, came and he is going to be the Masters Captain and organize the Masters Match in future, replacing Mike Gladding.

Spring Meeting

This event was played at Westerham Golf Course on a very hot sunny June day. Donald Payne, informed us that David Gibbs, our president and founder member, had had another stroke and was too ill to continue as President. David Spackman has agreed to be our new President.

David Spackman and Donald Payne presented the prizes to:

Morning – Stableford Alliance

- 1st with 39 points – *John Marvin, Philip Holden and Donald Payne*

Afternoon – The Atkinson Trophy

- 1st – *Rosemary Adkins with 36 points on Count Back*
- Nearest the pin was not awarded as no one got onto the 13th Green!
- Longest drive – *Donald Payne*
- Veterans Prize – *John Kennedy with 34 points*

Autumn Meeting on Monday September 22nd 2008 is at Cowdray Park, Midhurst in West Sussex. Members. Please book as soon as possible.

Running

The retired **Bruce Lyons (ThA 49-54)** has returned to an earlier love... running. After several seconds and thirds in previous years, in February, he finally won a British indoor championship, the 800m, at Picketts Lock, Enfield. This, of course, was in his own age-group, the over 70s.

Due to family difficulties, he was unable to run in the World Indoor Masters. but estimates he would have been fourth in both 400m and 800m had he repeated his Enfield times.

He comments that in his local gym, talking over school experiences of running and changing-rooms with a fellow masochist, he discovered that their experiences seemed similar. It was **Mike Lancefield (Ba B 54-60)** who now lives in Wareham, younger but just overlapping with him at CH. He lives about ten minutes walk away in Wareham.

Are there any other OBs still running and interested in veterans competitions?



Above: On the way to winning the 800m.

Rugby

Well another Old Blues Day came and went, but this year was a special year for the Old Blues Girls Sporting Association, as this was the first year the girls have played a variety of sporting matches on Old Blues Day.

So, 3:30pm came around on Litleside and the CH rugby girls were ready for battle, sporting brand new jerseys (loved by all!) and full of excitement the battle commenced. With the guidance of Mr Davey and a few dodgy decisions (no changes there) the 1st team got off to a cracking start with some great running lines and good showings of pace. The Old Blues were beaten several times on the outside by some good passing and quick running especially by Captain Hattie Williams and teammate Olivia Ogolo. The Old Blues showing a little bit of experience managed to spread the CH defence creating several chances for the Old Blues to pull the score back even. As both



teams took it in turns to add points keeping the scores equal till the very last minute, the clock began to run down, and with a few good pieces of foot work and some dummy passes the Old Blues managed to pull ahead by one try. With whistle in mouth, the last piece of play was against the Old Blues yet they managed to stay strong in defence and turn the ball over creating the last try scoring opportunity. Final Score - Old Blues 40 / CH 30. Emma White scored three tries for the OB's and Bethan Keall featured well with strong running in her first ever rugby match for the OB's.

Massive thank you to all involved, especially the CH girls the Old Blues stole for the game (but we did win!) and we will see you all next year!

Blues Afloat

After a day of intensive victualling and determined training, a party of Blues (Old and Young) set off at first light across a Channel that promised to be windy, rough and wet. One after the other all (except the Eastburns) succumbed to bucket gazing. It was with some relief that the on-duty watch cried "land-ho!" as the Sept Iles loomed out of the murk ahead.

A day spent showering and shopping in Perros quickly restored a sense of well-being, and soon we were off again into the wind and rain, working our way westward and through the intricate rocks and shoals that stand guard over the Morlaix Estuary. With the tide low, we were unable to proceed far up the river until the following morning, when El Animado was able to make her way cautiously up a winding channel to the lock at the entrance to Morlaix itself.

On leaving Morlaix, the sun shone for the first time as we made our way past rocks and shoals to the Ile de Batz where we dropped anchor off a shining beach to spend a calm and restful night under the stars. After lunch ashore, we enjoyed a pleasant, if rather slow sail to L'Abervrac'h, catching a number of mackerel which were eaten with relish for lunch.

From the calm setting of L'Abervrac'h, El Animado set forth for the return journey, enjoying an overnight sail blissfully free of the sickness and threatening weather that had plagued the first crossing. After a short stop in Coverack to replenish stores of sleep, the crew hoisted anchor and sails for the short voyage around the Manacle Rocks to the beautiful Helford River.

*Gemma Newlands (Col B 07-) &
David Eastburn (Prep B|Mid A 47-55)*



Above: *The Crew included Jonathan Eastburn, Chloë Mahoney, Jade Kelly, Harry Dienes, Gemma Newlands, David Eastburn, Judith Eastburn, Oliver Eastburn and Aidy Mahoney.*

Old Blues Cycletouring Club

Following the traditions of the school's cycle touring club, a group of Old Blue cyclists have for the past two years organised tours in central Europe. In 2007, **Ben Dowsett (Mid B 1987-1995)**, **Ed Turner (Mid B 1988-1995)** and **Nick Harper (Mid B 1988-1995)** joined Frank Pattison, who ran the school club until his retirement in 2005, on a 460-mile through Slovakia, cycling from Bratislava to Kosice and in the process climbing to over 4000' in the High Tatras.



Above: *Ed, Nick and Ben at Spis Castle in Slovakia last year and with Richard Kastein in Jablonne and with Richard Lebon and Frank Pattison in Jaromer during this year's tour.*

This summer the same group toured in Moravia and Bohemia, flying to Brno and cycling via Olomouc, the Eagle Mountains and the Giant Mountains to Liberec, close to the Czech Republic's northern borders with Poland and Germany. In challenging, mountainous country (and very high temperatures) they covered just over 500 miles in nine days. In Jesenik they were greeted by **Richard Kastein (Mid B 1989-1996)**, who had travelled across from his home in Antwerp to spend a few days with them, and in Jaromer, **Richard Lebon (Ma B and Grecians East 1997-2004)**, who had already cycled 1700 miles from Granada via the Pyrenees and the Alps, joined the group for the remainder of the tour.

Any other Old Blue cyclists who are interested in taking part in future European tours should contact Ben Dowsett: bdowsett@gmail.com. The Baltic States are being considered as a possible destination in 2009.

The Christ's Hospital School

Rugby & Hockey Tour to Australia 2009

In July and August of next year, pupils and staff representing boys rugby and girls hockey, will be touring to Australia as part of a major initiative at Christ's Hospital to support school sport and raise the profile of the key area of Housey life. Interestingly, this amazing expedition will also mark the 15th anniversary of the school's first ever major overseas tour, which was also to the land down under.



The Major Sports tours Committee has been established for over a year now and made up of the heads of major sports and dedicated fund-raisers, and is overseen by the Headmaster. The Committee is the brainchild of Sean Davey, who says, "...the philosophy behind the initiative is to create a sustainable fund to support more

regular overseas touring and give Christ's Hospital pupils wider sporting opportunities that they would not otherwise have. As well as giving financial support to all tourists, additional aid can be given to specific individuals from more extreme financial and social disadvantage."

In what has been a successful debut season, the Committee has concentrated upon three major events during the course of the year: The Late Summer Ball (Saturday 20th September being the next one); The Sussex Open Schools Sevens (sponsored and now established as a premier tournament on the sporting calendar); and The Sportspersons Dinner. As Sean says, "...through the hard work and dedication of the staff at CH, we have been able to establish a significant fund for our major sports and individual pupils. Moreover, these events have been excellent for friend-raising and building stronger links with various commercial partners, as well as significant numbers of Old Blues."

Meanwhile, the importance of pupil activity and effort should not be under-valued with each project. Staff and parents emphasise that educationally, it is important that 'they' do their bit to raise awareness and funds to help with the trips. With Australia in mind, the present cohort are certainly not sitting around expecting things just to happen for them, and through car-washing, odd-jobs and the 'smartie' initiative (fill a smartie packet with £1's); the pupils hope to have raised around £5000 by the time they leave these shores. These specific efforts give greater pupil ownership and enable meaningful trips and excursions to

take place whilst on tour and maximise their time within a new country. Furthermore, back at School, there are a number of initiatives planned to support the educational importance of the trip with departments such as English, History and Geography arranging subject-specific programmes of study to broaden the awareness and understanding of the pupils.

The 1st X1 Cricketers with their Tour to the West Indies last Easter were the first to benefit from the fund, though the focus now turns to the young boys and girls who are dreaming of representing their school down under. The draft itinerary to Australia takes the party to Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane, where they hope to catch up with as many Old Blues as possible. The Australian Rugby tour of 1994 saw the first ever meeting of the Queensland Old Blues Society take place, as well as the huge Dinner held at SCECGS Redlands, in Sydney, for the NSW Society. Sean Davey, who is organising this particular tour, is very keen that the trip provides opportunities for the Old Blues based in Australia to meet up with the staff and pupils and hopefully give some vocal support on the sidelines!

Finally, if anyone requires any further information about this particular trip or, significantly, wishes to support the initiative to and help the young boys and girls of Christ's Hospital fulfil their sporting ambitions then please do not hesitate to contact Sean at CH (sd@christs-hospital.org). Already, there have been a number of Old Blues who have been keen to be associated with this 'sport and education' initiative and have aided or are looking to help the programme in some way.

Right: Adam Marsh and Michelle Kalu.



Old Blues to share in sailing the yacht *El Animado*?

An opportunity has arisen to purchase the yacht *El Animado* from the current owner. The price is likely to be low considering the size and condition of the yacht, and could be eminently affordable by a syndicate of Old Blues acting together both for their own private use and for the benefit of young Old Blues.

El Animado is a superbly equipped Elan 43. She will sleep up to 11 persons and has a proven ocean-going capability. She has been used in recent years to give Grecians and young Old Blues an opportunity to sail offshore at little or no cost to themselves. (see reports in recent editions of the Blue and the Old Blue). It is hoped that this experience may be continued.

There is further information on the CH Unofficial forum: <http://chforum.info/php/viewtopic.php?f=27&t=2767>. Or contact David Eastburn at davebythesea@aol.com