

AGM April 2005

The **83rd AGM** of the School Club was held on 25 April in the Museum of the Royal Highland Fusiliers. The President welcomed 31 members.

Accounts

The treasurer presented the accounts and explained that £9296 had been located in various Bank of Scotland accounts by George Eastop. George was thanked for his efforts and for the successful outcome. The members agreed that the committee should decide the destination of these funds would be used and strong representation was made that the money should be transferred to the Endowment Trust.

Endowment Trust

Jack McGuinness brought the members up to date with the Endowment Trust.

The total funds currently stand at £208,723 with £10,952 in one-off donations from former pupils and £1700 per annum in standing orders. Six students are currently being supported and all are doing well in their studies. Two of them have been awarded prizes by the university.

Sports Club

Bob Leckie reported on the Sports Club. This had been a successful year for the Rugby Club, finishing second in the league and winning promotion. Members were delighted to learn that Alistair Kellock, who had started his rugby career with Allan Glen's, played in the Scottish team against Romania.

Newsletter

The Newsletter, produced jointly by Mike McCreery and Ian Dale, will be moving into a new phase. This and all future issues will be sent by e-mail or can be downloaded from the website. The **website**, designed and managed by Callan Dick, has proved to be a valuable source of information and contact for former pupils.

Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner was a great success although the numbers were a little disappointing. Ross Graham was congratulated on the organisation of the event.

Lunch Club

The Lunch Club report was presented by Gordon Day. The lunches continue to be very popular and the numbers have had to be restricted to 35.

Office Bearers

John Macdonald was re-elected President, George Smith, treasurer and Ian Dale honorary secretary. Alan McLellan was elected to the committee to take the place of Sandy Howie who was standing down. John Macdonald offered the Club's sincere thanks to Sandie for all his hard work on the committee, especially the production of the Membership Directory, which he will continue to maintain, the advertising leaflet, the CD-Rom of the 1953 School Magazine and the updating of the membership database.

At the conclusion of the meeting members enjoyed a magnificent buffet in the Colonel of the Regiment's Room.

Allan Glen's Grave

After a few enquiries, we were able to locate the grave of Allan Glen, the School's founder. It is located in the Southern Necropolis, Caledonia Road Glasgow G5 (N 55 Deg 50.573min W 4deg 14.848min).

The location is shown incorrectly in the website on the southern Necropolis www.southernnecropolis.com, but if you want to find it, just enter by the large gate, turn right and when you reach the corner of the wall, turn left. Walk past a 'T' junction to the right and about 100 yards further on, you will come to the location of the headstone on your right, attached to the perimeter wall.

Gordon Garrity, Jack McAllister and Mike McCreery arrived at the Southern Necropolis on 31 May and found the site somewhat overgrown with ivy. After almost 3 hours work with secateurs, loppers and saws we managed to clear the ivy and even managed to re-paint the relevant inscription on the stone. A few pictures are attached that illustrate what we did. We hope that the parks department will clear the mountain of branches that we left!!



As we found it



The mountaineer



The 'artist'



Truly knackered

Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson

IEE past President and the first engineer to be appointed controller of the Royal Navy

(With thanks to the IEE for permission to reprint this obituary)

It was a combination family circumstances and the Second World War that led Lindsay Bryson to take up a career in electrical engineering and the Navy. Born in 1925, he was educated at Allan Glen's School in Glasgow but was forced to give up his scholarship after two years and seek work. However, his ambition of obtaining a degree and becoming an engineer remained undiminished. By going to night school he passed the matriculation requirements for a London University external degree and enrolled with Paisley Technical College.

After a few terms, and with his savings almost gone, the cadetship scheme - designed to train engineers for wartime service - came to his aid. By maintaining his attendance at college in the evenings, he succeeded in passing the intermediate BSc and the first part of the finals. At the end of his cadetship, Bryson was one of a small group offered the chance to join the Navy's electrical branch. He became an electrical mechanic via the ships Royal Arthur and Wendover and, on promotion to electrical midshipman, he joined the battleship HMS Anson.

In 1947 he was assigned to the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Malvern to take part in the development of a miniaturised X-band radar. It was there, after what had turned out to be nine years of part-time study, that he finally obtained a first class external BSc from London University.

On leaving Malvern in 1949, Bryson joined the Naval Air Radio Maintenance Group, with responsibility for introducing new airborne radars and radio into the Fleet Air Arm. Two years later he was sent to America to be trained on the Skyraider advanced early warning aircraft. Returning to the UK, he became the first air electrical officer of the Royal Navy's Skyraider squadron at Culdrose.

In 1954, he moved from the Fleet Air Arm to the general service on frigates and destroyers. "It was a great time to be at sea: he recalled later. "We still had a fairly large fleet, and travelled widely throughout the world. I concentrated on the Mediterranean, but we went to a number of places that would be much more difficult to visit today. I think I was jolly lucky to see a bit of the Navy that was fast disappearing."

After two years in ships he was sent to the Department of Electrical Engineering at Bath where he spent two years as an assistant electrical engineer, involved in the design of the control system for the launcher of the first Sea Slug surface-to-surface missile.

Late in 1958 he joined the cruiser HMS Tiger and, two years later, at the unusually early age for an electrical engineer of 35, was promoted to commander and returned to naval aviation for two years with the Naval Aircraft Department in London.

In 1963 he began a postgraduate course in guided weapons at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, after which he joined HMS Fife - the first guided missile destroyer to have the new computer-controlled ADAWS 1 weapon system - as weapons engineer officer. Promoted to captain in 1967 he returned to the Naval Aircraft Department in London as an assistant director. Then, in 1970, he took command of the Royal Naval Air Station at Lee-on-Solent, HMS Daedalus.

In 1973, Bryson returned to Whitehall as director of naval guided weapon systems for what was to be the final phase of his naval career. Over the next 11 years his responsibilities continued to expand. He was appointed director of surface weapon systems, director of general weapons for the Navy, chief naval engineer officer and then, in 1981, controller of the Navy responsible for procurement of all new materials.

This period saw a number of major changes in methods of procurement, the most significant of which was the decline of the cost-plus contract. "I believe the old cost-plus mentality was a disaster all round," Bryson said later. "It was a cosy way of working that many engineers and scientists found very appealing, since it meant that they could influence the development of a product to get design changes, even at quite a late stage. An industry would be happy to implement these changes because it was paid for them."

Bryson was appointed KCB in 1981, and promoted to Admiral in 1983. A member of the IEE from 1945, he presented the Faraday Lecture, 'The Electron Rules the Waves', during 1976-77. Following his retirement from the Navy in 1985 he served as IEE President for 1985/86 and went on to serve as deputy chairman of GEC Marconi as well as chairing the Marine Technology Directorate and ERA Technology.

Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson died on 24 March 2005, aged 80.



I Got More Than Education



August 1937, Day 1 – the 1B Latin Class at Allan Glen’s – Alistair Dingwall Hodge – Principal Teacher of Latin, whose life at AGS goes back to the John Street school days, is taking his first register of the Latin class. Going through the names, his eyes light on one – “stand up the boy called Hodge”. Dutifully, I stand, the Master eyes me over, and says, “Hodge –eh? – Your first name?” – “Robert, Sir” – “Well, you’ll not be known as that for long! – Sit down, young Hodge”.

Mr Hodge completes his class register and begins his first year introduction to the Latin class; handing out his Latin Primer, - and as far as my memory allows he addressed us as follows. “This is your Latin Primer, and notice the name of the author, A. Dingwall Hodge – that’s me and the “A” stands for Augustus – a Latin name – a Caesar in Roman times – after whom I am called – though Augustus has been shortened somewhat amongst boys of this school for many years! I wrote this book, when I was studying Latin in Oxford, many years ago. After an accident, when I fell off my bicycle and I was injured – a spoke through my groin – punctured me some two inches North-West of my right testicle – and I spent the summer months convalescing and living in a tent by the side of the river in Oxford – and that was when this Latin Primer was started.

You will use it – learn from it – love it and master this wonderful language – you are the wise ones to have chosen Latin – it will stand you in good stead throughout your life”.

This was my introduction to one of the most memorable teachers of my time at Glen’s. Many other teachers were “characters” but Gus Hodge stood out above the rest – good tempered, occasionally cross and no wonder the classes he had, but with a wonderful dry sense of humour and a rebellious attitude to higher authority. The stories he told the class were legend and would today have brought reprimand, such as the time he told us of “Our Rector – Doctor Steele – whom you

call ‘Jumbo’”, and the Rector’s annoyance of school latecomers sneaking in by the top gate and how he ordered the janitor to lock the gate, five minutes after the morning bell. Gus said, “When we started our first lesson next morning, we were disturbed by shouts and rattling noises and looking out of these windows we had the pleasure of seeing ‘Jumbo’ outside the locked gate, rattling it to attract attention – locked out on his own orders!” It was, “Boys, come back from the window – get on with your lessons – but make this a lesson for you as well – never be ‘hoist with your own petard’ – look it up – write a short note for me on what it means”.

Within a month or so my nickname was established – ‘Wee Gussy’ or ‘Gussy’ and over the six years at school shortened to ‘Gus’ – and believe it, 65 years later there are still at least two people who call me ‘Gus’ and it has taken a lot of effort to get others to call me by real name of Robin!

I expect Gus Hodge was disappointed in my efforts at Latin and further up the school it was dropped in favour of a technical direction but amongst my later teachers Old Gus had a special place.

At one time during the 39/45 War, Gus was knocked down by an S.M.T. bus when returning from his Home Guard duties and ended up in Killearn Hospital with injuries including a badly injured leg. A fellow pupil, Tom Colvin, and I decided we would visit Gus and use the excuse to ‘plunk’ classes and do a traverse along the Campsie Hills from above Strathblane to Dumgoyne and end up at Killearn Hospital. Wee Mary, in the school tuck shop, was approached and made up a small pack of sweets and chocolate to take on our visit and on Monday we absented ourselves. The Campsies kept us busy for a few hours and we arrived at the hospital and were duly shown down the ward to Mr Hodge – surprised but pleased to have visitors. He promptly showed us how he could walk the length of the ward without his missing kneecap. He explained how, “This Bloody Blue Juggernaut came rushing out of the darkness and sent me flying through the air!” Our stay was short and we left him his chocolates, although he did insist that we share them. Months later, sitting in Mr Skinner’s Latin class, Gus came in and spying me, told Mr Skinner and the class, “Do you know that these two boys gave up their Monday holiday specially to see me in hospital” – he never knew the truth!

The nickname of Gus was with well established for me and on one occasion Tom came up from the Tech to see me and to fix details of a week’s hill walking. Not finding me he left with the school captain, Barry Hastie, “If you see Gus Hodge will you tell him I was looking for him”. Imagine Tom’s surprise, when gripped by the arm as he left the top gate by old Gus, “Got your message, lad, come on, down to the pub for a pie and a pint”. It was only there that Tom was asked, “Now what was it you wanted to see me about?” – but at least he got a pie and a pint! I left school in 1943, but the “Gus” followed me into an apprenticeship at Alexander Stephens, then to the Tech, the University and even into the Army – a shout of “Gus” across Queen’s Parade at Aldershot halted two squads from different corps while two Allan Glen’s boys exchanged notes about Army life. Back at the Tech in 1948 the place name card at the final year dinner made out to A. Hodge – someone thought I was an “Angus”.

Today my associates are scattered to the winds – but there are still two who remind me that I was called after a grand old Teacher.

Gus (Robin) Hodge.