



Allan Glen's School Club

Newsletter March 2008

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Editorial

Over Christmas and New Year 2007-8, my wife Joan and I, with our younger daughter, Carol, visited our elder daughter Jill and her family, in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. This is not the story of our family holiday but, if you "read, mark, note and inwardly digest," you may find something of interest in this epistle. I knew through contact with Past President, Bruce Barrie, before we left for South Africa, that his cousin Barrie Hastie, also a Past President, was living in Durban and Bruce gave me Barrie's telephone number. I made contact with Barrie and we had a couple of conversations.

Barrie is not only a Past President 1969/70 but was also School Captain 1942/43. In an earlier life, I was involved with the Road Haulage Industry in the West of Scotland and our paths had crossed on many occasions as he was also involved in the Industry, I resolved to make further contact with Barrie during our trip.



Barrie is now a widower, living in a part of his son Campbell's Bed & Breakfast Establishment just above Durban, in the Valley of a Thousand Hills. For those of you unfamiliar with B & B's in South Africa, it is an entirely different concept to those in Britain. All B & B's in South Africa have a swimming pool, The very grandest one we stayed in, near Stellenbosch, had TWO pools and a par 3 golf hole in the garden. "Campbell's B & B" is run by Campbell's wife Emilia and Campbell works as a

Construction Engineer in Durban. It is extremely comfortable and the area about is, as the name "Valley of a Thousand Hills" implies, very spectacular. We spent four days with the Hasties' and had a "Right Royal Time" with them. On our final day we had a splendid buffet lunch with them in the Durban Golf and Country Club, where Campbell is a member and which is immediately adjacent to the Sharks Ground (one of the Super 14 rugby teams). For anyone who is interested in staying at "Campbell's B & B" the web site is www.campbells.co.za and the email address is enquiries@campbells.co.za. Barrie gave me a copy of the "Allan Glen's Memorabilia," a volume listing all those 104 pupils of the School who died in action during the Second World War. In turn I have given it to Sandy Howie who is using the book to further revise his database. On our return to Port Elizabeth I picked up a voicemail message from Hugh Wallace who was our Guest Speaker at the October 8th Lunch..... See article on Page 3

Alan McLellan

editor@allanglens.com

Dates for your Diary

Friday 18th April 2008 East of Scotland Club Dinner

Murrayfield Golf Club 7:00 for 7:30 - Contact Ian Hogarth 0131 332 1503

Friday 25 April 2008 Canadian Lunch - Contact Ken Clark

Monday 28 April 2008 AGSC Annual General Meeting

Strathclyde Business School, 199 Cathedral Street at 5.30 for 6.00 pm.

Thu 12th June Golf at Barassie - contact Brian McAllister 0141 332 0392

Thursday 11th Sept. Annual Golf Outing Pollok -(0141 332 0392)

Saturday 29 November 2008 Annual Dinner - Trades House Glasgow

President - Alan McLellan
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president@allanglens.com

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15 Lowndes Street Barrhead
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Gregor Egan
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Glasgow G78 2QX

Lunch Club - Gordon Day
34 Lomond Drive Bishopbriggs
G64 3BZ tel 0141 772 3756
and - George Smith
Newhouse Farm Barrhead
Glasgow G78 2SE

Moneyspinner Draw -
Ian McLennan 3B Lennox Court
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Committee
A McLaren D Shaw
R Leckie
C Downie K Guiney

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Website and Membership Database

Photo Gallery on the Website.

We now have 73 pictures on the new photo gallery together with captions. You can access this from the home page of the website by clicking on 'Photo Gallery'. If you find any more suitable pictures, please send them to me, scanned, or originals, which will be returned.

The lecture slides used at the November 2007 Allan Glen's Young Person's Lecture are also accessed from the home page. We have had some useful feedback from the schools thanks to Ken Guiney's follow up - see article in Page 2 of this Newsletter.

Database.

Following on from Sandy Howie's mammoth task researching the old School records, we now have updated the database with the names, admission date and class of all pupils between 1933 and 1973. You will see (from Sandy's note) that Sandy has not yet completed his work and we also now need to consider how best to make the basic Name / Year information available for web access.

Memberships.

The Lifetime Membership offer has been well received and applications continue to arrive. A real surprise came a few weeks ago from Australia from a young chap of 92 (his first year was 1927) applying for Lifetime Membership. I append his wonderful letter for you to read. We have since been able to provide Bob with some of the information that he requested, but I hope that there may be someone out there who will remember him and let us know more. Bob is also on e-mail bob.hetherington@internode.on.net.

Mike McCreery

membership@allanglens.com

10/1A Stanley Street,
Kings Park,
South Australia Australia 5034 27/2/08

Dear Mr. McCreery,

I have only recently discovered the AGS Club via Google and I enclose a cheque for £50 to cover lifetime membership and the allocation to the Endowment Trust Fund .

It may seem strange to take out lifetime membership at my age - 92 - but as an ex scholarship student I feel that I should take the opportunity to help the Fund a little. Of course after a career in chemistry it seems a little odd to support engineering. That of course, is an attempt at humour.

I saw the item in the December Newsletter of an item from the 1931 School Magazine with the author's initials RH and Class IV A but cannot remember a fellow pupil with the same initials in that class in which I was a member. Of course my memory is not what it used to be but I don't think I would have been clever enough then for it to have been me. My only contribution to the magazine was a photo of a letter rack I made in Woodwork with a design on it done in Art.

In the old school hall there was a roll of honour for those lost in WWI and I have often wondered if there was one for WW2. I very much wanted to join the cadets but the cost of a second-hand uniform was £26 which was a lot of money in those days. I only know of one of the cadets who was commissioned in the RAF but lost contact with him. I guess there were many of them in WW2 and some losses. My own "martial career" started as a pre-war enlistment in the TA. I was naive in those days and imagined a strong TA might discourage Hitler - quite ridiculous! 'I

I had some good teachers most of whose names I have forgotten. In IA our maths teacher was Stuart(?) McIntosh who later became Director of Education. As an international rugby player he was held in high esteem. In English we had John(?) Talman who left to become head of Glasgow High. He was a disciplinarian but a marvellous teacher. The one I remember best was "Gussie" Hodge for Latin. In the 1st year I can remember him raving that. "they" had sent us to him to learn Latin but "they" hadn't taught us English. —

The headmaster then was Dr "Jumbo" Steele whose 1st year was the same as ours. He was a martinet from day one much to the dismay of the previous Prep classes who had been used to another head. I left part way into my 6th year having with great difficulty (depression years) found a job and my valedictory from the headmaster was for me to remember that I would be watched all the time, advice which puzzled me and annoyed my parents. But of course he was quite right as I found out when I had staff of my own. Incidentally the job was as a Lab Assistant at the sum of 5/- a week. Little wonder that I couldn't join the Old Boys.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Hetherington.

The Wee Yellow 500

At the end of our October 8th Lunch I was speaking with Hugh Wallace, our Speaker for the day and Managing Director of Arnold Clark (Finance). We were talking of the imminent release of the new Fiat 500 and I asked him if he would be interested in possibly using our 1972 version of the car at the launch. From new in August 1972, the car had been extensively used until about 1988 but had, for the past twenty years, been languishing in our garage and was in a pretty poor state of repair.

Hugh was very interested and said he would come back to me when he had had time to look further into the matter. True to his word, about a week later he phoned me to say that a tow wagon would be there the next day to take it away. I must say that with a family holiday in South Africa looming, the matter disappeared from my mind.

As a matter of course when I am on holiday, I pick up my voicemail messages on a daily basis. Imagine my surprise when I picked up Hugh's dulcet tones informing me that : "Not only is the car now in showroom condition but it has also passed its MOT." Remembering how the car had looked when it left our Netherlee Address, I was somewhat dubious.



Launch date for the **NEW FIAT 500** could not have been more propitious, it was set for 8.00pm on 21 January 2008, exactly **500 hours into 2008** and, the very day that we returned from South Africa. Our daughter Carol, who lives and works in Nottingham came up for the event and, at about 7.30pm we all arrived at Arnold Clark's Fiat Showroom on Springburn Road. Hugh had not been exaggerating, the car did indeed look in "Showroom Condition." All the NEW FIAT 500'S were suitably shrouded but DDS 885L was resplendent in its new trappings. I wouldn't say it "stole the show" but until Miss Scotland unveiled the NEW FIAT 500 it certainly got more than its fair share of ogling.



On the Friday of that week was the Allan Glen's - Bishopbriggs Burns Lunch and on our return from the Lunch we popped into Arnold Clark's and took some more photos. If anyone is interested in seeing a beautifully restored Fiat 500 and, who knows, you might just be interested in buying a NEW FIAT 500 for your Wife or even for yourself, you could do worse than to pop into the Springburn Road Branch!

Alan McLellan

Young Persons' Lecture 2007 – Schools' Feedback - Ken Guiney

Following the lecture, the teacher contacts at the schools whose pupils had attended the lecture were involved in a survey to assess the pupils' views of this new venture. The responses were most encouraging and can be summarised as follows:-

- All pupils enjoyed the experience and considered their attendance worthwhile. The lectures, presentation and the facilities of the venue were regarded as excellent. One teacher suggested that some form of audience participation might prove beneficial.
- Most 5th and 6th year pupils were already committed to University engineering courses but still considered the lecture to be a positive influence on their choice of engineering as a career. A few 3rd year pupils attended, but some found some of Prof. Saravanamuttoo's lecture a bit beyond them.
- The presence of local engineering industry representatives was considered advantageous and many pupils reported good interaction.
- All the schools appreciated our initiative and welcomed the prospect of future Allan Glen Young Persons' Lectures.

Burns Lunch 25 January 2008



Several factors contributed to the success of the "Burns Lunch" held at the Sports Pavilion, at Bishopbriggs, on the 25th January 08.

Not the least important, was the encouraging presence of twenty three members and guests, who as Burns "aficionados", or merely "drouthy neebors", provided an enthusiastic, and surprisingly well behaved company.

Our President Alan McLellan addressed the Haggis with eloquence and vigour; the School's answer to all Tenors, Italian or otherwise, W. B. (Bill), Montgomery sang a selection of extracts from some of the poet's best loved songs, with great empathy and control, which did credit to his tender years; and an abbreviated "Immortal Memory" was delivered by Joe Miller.

Despite a slight delay in the arrival of the Lunch itself, we had a successful and enjoyable day, which hopefully can be repeated next year, and there can be no doubt that "Freedom, Whisky, and the boys of Allan Glens gang thegither"!

As always the services of "Court Photographer", the indefatigable Mike McCreery, provided a visual message for posterity.

Joe Miller



Alan Addresses the Haggis



Bill Sings Burns



Joe 'does' The Immortal Memory

Mrs. Tam O' Shanter

Ye a' ken Tam O' Shanter's fate,
His tale yon Rabbie did relate;
(A fine ane him to gie advice
When he himsel' was far frae wise).
Weel, I am Kate, Tam's lawfu' wife,
Wha suffered wi' him awfu' strife;
Hear ye my tale O' what befell
That night Tam just escaped frae Hell - .
He cam' hame fou' and started hummin'
About some extra-ordnar' woman
Wha's duds, the drunken scamp related,
Seemed to be sair abbreviated.

About the drink I didna fash,
And put up wi' a lot O' snash,
But fegs, my friens, it wasna canny,
To hear Tam ca' his Katie, Nannie:
I tint my temper a' thegither,
And swore I'd gae straight hame to mither. ..
Awa' ye go," he gied a whistle,
It gar me a'most burst my bustle.
Ae angry word led to the next,
And aye the quarrel grew mair vext ;
For neibor folks we had nae heid
And roared like we wad wauk the deid.

And when the fecht was growing furious,
Roon cam' my mither (she aye was curious) ;
She just drap't in, she said, to speir
The cause O' a' the noises queer,
That echoin' across the Doon
Had waukened hauf the folks in toon.
I had to tell the wofu' truth
That Tammie had an awfu' drouth,
Had gaen to Ayr, and cam' hame fou'
And talked O' ither weemen noo.
My minnie said she'd fix the deevil
And teach him to treat me mair ceevil

By comin' roon to bide a wee,
A month or twa, she'd wait and see.
Tam started up towards the door,
To Meg, the mare, he gied a roar,
"Come on, lass, up, get oot the stable,
We'll canter back, and if I'm able
I'll try and mak' the warlocks barter
Your tail back for that curst auld Tartar."
My mither saw Tam wasna jokin',
She couldna' risk a fate sae shockin' ;
She coost her heid, and set aff hame
Wi' fear and tremblin' in her wame.

Syne Tam cam' back, and sober noo,
He tald me a' about the crew
O' warlocks dancin' wi' the witches,
And said that no' for a' the riches
In the land wad he forgait
His ain braw, bonnie, buxom Kate.
But just in case, when fou' O' ale
His memory should ever fail,
To save him frae the witches' spell,
I gang to Ayr wi' him mysel'.

McBurns (from a 1947 School Magazine)

The Coronation Crew

Way back in nineteen fifty three,
Elizabeth was crowned our Queen
And into Allan Glen's First Year,
Went the weirdest crew you'veever seen.

They came from all the airts and pairts
The net had been cast far and wide
From Maryhill to Rutherglen
And even from Loch Lomondside.

For six long years they laboured at
Those subjects mighty tough
Like Physics, Maths and History
My God, Butch's Book was rough.

And English, French and Geography
Till they thought their brains would pop
But there was more to come, like pottery
And Abercrombie's woodwork shop

Homework till your brain was sore
And your eyes had gone all skelly
No time to play, or even watch
The Lone Ranger on the telly.

There was batman running round the school
Black gown flapping in the wind
And phumph and other teachers' belts
To make sure you hadn't sinned.

Or how about the "Jannie"
In his little hidey -hole
Lost a book, or lost your cap
He'd make you pay, the miserable soul.

Don't forget the school canteen
And sausage rolls and pies
And tea so strong, I swear it brought
A teardrop to your eyes:

The Highers came, the Highers went
The term came to its end
And off to University or commerce
We all did duly wend.

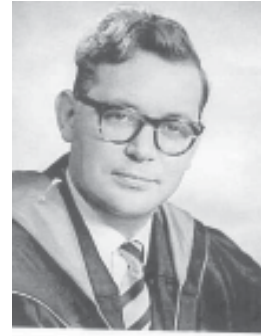
More books to read, more skills to learn
What efforts we all had made
But this time there was a difference
For our efforts, we got paid!

No matter what - we made it gents -
And carried on to pastures new
But now we're back together again
The Coronation crew.

Keith Meara. 2008

Obituary – Tom McAllister - addendum

In our December 2007 Newsletter we carried extracts from an obituary to Tom McAllister by Dorothy Grace Elder. Not long after the Newsletter was Published we received an addendum from Jim Parker, a contemporary of Tom's in *Allan Glen's FP Cricket*. "Thank you for the recent tribute to Tom McAllister, which was, of course, thoroughly deserved. However, I believe there was one very significant omission in his achievements and, what I believe were very important factors in Tom's Life. Tom was passionately keen on cricket, especially as Team Manager of the **Allan Glen's FP Team**. With Tom's inspiration the team moved from the 3rd Division, to the 2nd Division and then to Winners of the 1st Division of the Glasgow and District League (in successive years.) I believe this was the pinnacle of achievement for an **Allan Glen's Cricket Team** and was largely due to the drive and enthusiasm of Tom McAllister. Even though he was not playing, due to infirmity, no one doubted that Tom was as important as anyone else. I feel that it is a great pity that this was not mentioned in the tribute to Tom, as cricket with **Allan Glen's**, was a huge presence in his life."



JB Parker

Thomas Hunter Duncan

THE ISLE of Bute has lost one of its stalwarts following the death of Thomas Hunter Duncan, known universally as Hunter, at the age of 87. Hunter was born on the neighbouring island of Cumbrae, where his father was a key figure in the community, both as joiner and undertaker. It was to his father's skill in shaping and crafting wood that Hunter attributed the pride he took in the trimming of a hoof, be it equine or bovine.

After primary education in Millport, Hunter attended **Allan Glen's School** in Glasgow, and then on to the Glasgow Veterinary College to fulfil his ambition to be a vet. Following a time in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps he returned to Rothesay in 1946, as assistant to Robert Moodie. He served the island community of Bute for the next 39 years.

His veterinary career covered the change from horse to tractor for power; from milk chums to bulk tanks on the dairy farms, Shorthorn and Angus to Charolais and Simmental for beef; and all the time with a change in the pharmaceutical armoury from colic drenches and poultices to our modern antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. He was also involved in the breeding and showing of Highland ponies, which he rode and drove until well past his 80th birthday. In 1976 he carried off the mountain and moorland ridden championship at the Royal Highland Show.

His wife Jill died in 1962 and he is survived by his daughters Gail and Gillian, grandchildren Ross and Hazel, Thomas and Duncan and Fiona, his partner of more recent years.

Update From our Research Fellow - Sandy Howie

There was a good response to the recent request for school magazines and this has made it possible to compile a fairly comprehensive list of pupils who attended Allan Glen's School during its final years.

In addition to these magazines a number of sports day programmes were made available together with lists of those scholars who were rewarded with bursaries. The names found in our two School Histories were also included to make our list as comprehensive as possible.

Alan McLellan received a copy of the Remembrance Book on a recent visit to South Africa and access to this document has allowed us to add the names of the fallen to their school mates on our club register. The greatest source of information however came from the discovery of a few of the volumes of the **School Register** which escaped the school fire in the 50's.

(No one believed that they existed, but Sandy found them! - ED)

The list of all of the names together with the years when each attended is now with Mike McCreery - the custodian of the membership list. (see Page 2) It is hoped that it will soon be possible to add this list to our excellent web-site and so make it accessible to all our Members. However, as the School was alive and well long before 1933, the work continues to create a definitive record of pupils including this earlier period and it is hoped that annual magazines will be found with additional names of those who attended in earlier years.

If in your dusty attic you have a Magazine from the 1920's or earlier, I would be most interested in viewing it and add any names it may contain to the 8,000 ex-pupils we now have on our Register.

Sandy Howie, 15 Stewart Avenue, Glasgow G77 6HN

A letter received from Ian Rogers who is doing a spell in Malaysia.

Monday 24th October 2007

Dear Mike,

It has been 8 weeks already and we are still living with a vague sense of unreality. Contrary to my earlier experience in February—a three week visit—there has been much rain—the sudden thunder and lightning, intense persistent rains, which come on with little warning.

We spent the weekend in an area called the Cameron Highlands—after a Scotsman naturally—who had surveyed the area during the British Rule. The 5-hour car trip home became 8 hours and the rain was continuous and intense (stair-rods).

There are many scooters on the roads—driven by young and old men and women—usually wearing helmets invariably unfastened and some without. There are often two or more on board sometimes quite young children and all seem to joust in and out of the traffic at break-neck speed. Sometimes, even in those intensely black Malaysian nights—without any illumination.

The natives are very friendly. One scooter driver 50-ish lady festooned in helmet and looking rather broad and formidable responded to our obvious despairing scrutiny of our map in Georgetown (Penang)—by insisting that we follow her and she took us to our destination 3–4 miles away obviously quite out of her road. She flatly refused any payment.

The University is privately owned by the Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) and mainly takes Malaysians of Indian extraction. Free Educational opportunities are greatest for the native Muslim Malays—and this is a bone of contention with the others.. The fees for a 5 year Medical Course are £30,000 which would translate into £210,000 back home. Most students have a bank-loan / government loan as well as paying a portion themselves.

The vice-chancellor of the University is Geoffroy Smith a retired Prof. of Cardiac Surgery from Sheffield – a very impressive man much committed to AIMST—Asian Institute of Medical Science and Technology. You will be interested to look at it on-line .

We have our own flat on the 7th. Floor of a modern apartment building reserved for the Academic staff in the grounds of this beautiful 240 acre campus. There is a department of biotechnology; physiology; anatomy; biochemistry; foundation studies; dentistry and medicine..

There are around 2000 students in all, of whom 750 are medical students and we surgical academics number about 8.

Mornings are spent with bedside teaching in two splendid state of the art hospitals and there are Problem Based Learning (PBL) sessions; straightforward power point lectures and symposia thrown in.

We have bought a TV and, once connected, look forward to seeing BBC TV and radio, which we miss.

The other night at dinner in the Cameron Highlands, Plaisir d'Amour was played and it all brought back happy memories of the choir I used to sing with. I loved singing that song and I suspect the fellow guests enjoyed it too.

Judith is remaining quite happy about this huge change. We go to the local Tesco in our rented car sometimes even to the Giant superstore and we enjoy eating the local food. —about 40p for lunch!

We purchased a digital piano the other day and I play it regularly. When the string section is activated, my playing appears to take on a magical romantic atmosphere and I become quite carried away. Mainly simple Beethoven, Haydn and Clementi.

Judith joined a Penang choir about 2 weeks ago. They meet weekly and I joined them last week. The Angel Carol by John Rutter is in the repertoire. (Penang is about 1 hour down the road.)

The students are well-behaved and very respectful and I enjoy teaching them.

We went to the Dentists' Ball about 4 weeks ago and very many talented groups/vocalists and classical Indian dancers were on display, although predictably it all got rather loud towards the end.

We shall see what the Medical students can do later. At least 10 % of the medical students are Christian and many are evangelists.

We have been to our local Baptist Church and Anglican Church. Harvest Thanksgiving was about 2 weeks ago with the offer of fruits and service being combined in a specific way representatives of young people and older people and specific organisations being formally presented and being required to declaim a set traditional specific pledge.

There is a huge Methodist Church in Georgetown/Penang with Missions throughout Malaysia.

It is good to sing all the great hymns.

We ought to be back Dec. 9th.in the UK for a month and then will return here.

The hospitals here are state of the art and, in their design, put S Tyneside to shame.

Hope to see you when we get back to UK ..

(Apologies for not getting this published in the December Newsletter, but we had rather a lot of copy for that one. We wish Ian and family well on this interesting assignment and hope to see them back with us in due course. -ED)

East Cowglen Farm



The farm was situated on a small hill off the Barrhead Road, probably where Broompark Farm is today. The ruin in the distance appears to be Crookston Castle.

This watercolour was painted by an unknown artist working for the Maxwell family. It is one of a series showing buildings and views on the Pollok Estate.

Allan Glen was born the son of George Glen and Marion Mitchel who were married on 5th November 1771. The family farmed the lands of East Cowglen and Maudlans near Pollokshaws but the small size of the farm meant that it could barely support one family. This forced part of the family, including Allan Glen's parents, to move into the village of Pollokshaws to find work in the mills.

The lead for this information was from a friend of George Smith.

Web references are:-

The Glasgow Story

www.theglasgowstory.com/image.php?inum=TGSH00041

The Southern Necropolis Heritage Trail 21 to 24 on-

http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Parks_Outdoors/HeritageTrails/SouthernNecropolis/southernnecropolisheritagetrail21to24.htm



ALLAN GLEN'S SCHOOL CLUB

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G61 2NU
18 March 2008
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e-mail: ian_dale@ntlworld.com

Dear Member,

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Club will be held in Chesters Dining Room, Strathclyde University Business School, Cathedral Street, Glasgow (on the opposite side of Cathedral Street from the new School Building) on **Monday 28th April at 5.30pm for 6.00pm**. A buffet meal will be provided following the meeting.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Apologies | - Dr I. Dale |
| 2. Notification of deaths | - Dr I. Dale |
| 3. President's Remarks | - A.F. McLellan |
| 4. Minutes of 85th AGM, held on 24 April 2007 | - Dr I. Dale |
| 5. Honorary Secretary's Report | - Dr I. Dale |
| 6. Treasurer's Report | - H. R. Graham |
| 7. Allan Glen's Endowment Scholarship Trust | - to be advised |
| 8. Allan Glen's School Club Trust | - A. F. McLellan |
| 9. Report from the East of Scotland Club | - I Hogarth |
| 10. Report from the Golf Section | - B McAllister |
| 11. Report from the Sports Club | - R Leckie |
| 12. Report on the Newsletter | - A McLellan |
| 13. Report on the Annual Dinner | - H R Graham |
| 14. Report on the Lunch Club | - G.Day |
| 15. Alumni of the Year | - to be advised |
| 16. Proposed change to Constitution - attached | |
| 17. Nomination and Election of Treasurer, Honorary Secretary | |
| 18. Nomination and Election of Committee Members | |
| 19. Nomination and Election of Trustees of the Endowment Scholarship Trust | |
| 20. Any Other Competent Business. | |

Yours sincerely

Ian Dale
Honorary Secretary

Amendment to the 2007 Constitution for 2008 AGM.

2.1 All persons who have been pupils at Allan Glen's School, and all members of the teaching staff of the School are eligible for membership, as Subscribing Members paying the full subscription.

TO BECOME

2.1 All persons who have been pupils at Allan Glen's School, all members of the teaching staff of the School and Scholarship Students who have successfully graduated are eligible for membership as Subscribing Members paying the full subscription.