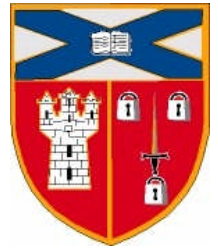


**The Newsletter of  
Aberdeen Grammar School Former Pupils'  
Club  
and  
Club Centre**



**Edition 23 – January, 2011**

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Where has the last year gone? It seems no time at all since Edition 22 of this annual Newsletter was being put together – and I certainly did not expect to be producing this one. I am experiencing the same problem as Martin Jeffrey a few years ago, reflecting that he had set up these Newsletters and kept on with them always in the expectation that someone else would step forward to take on the task. It never happened, and history is now repeating itself.

As this takes shape the country is just recovering from the severe winter conditions which have afflicted us since late November, with depths of snow unheard of in recent years covering the landscape – not to mention our streets and pavements. As a friend remarked, 'This was great fun when we were kids – but that was years ago!' The difficulty of getting about ought to have made preparation of a Newsletter easier, as one could remain indoors and get on with it – but concentrating the mind amid the run-up to Christmas and the usual last-minute shopping, which should have been done earlier but now could not be postponed further, is not that simple.

I hope that readers will find material in the newsletter of interest and of use to them. This is intended to bridge the gap between issues of the *Magazine* and to keep members of the FP Club up to speed on various matters. It is also, of course, a convenient opportunity to publicise the Annual Dinner of the Club in Aberdeen and to encourage members to attend what is always a very convivial occasion. Bill May's proposal of the main toast last year is a hard act to follow, but in Alan Campbell, a stalwart FP and recently retired Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire, we have someone who is well equipped to do just that. He has a well-earned reputation as an after-dinner speaker.

This edition of the Newsletter comes, as always, with Season's Greetings and the hope that the New Year will be happy and prosperous. It also comes with a heart-felt plea for an FP volunteer, male or female, age irrelevant, to take on the task of compiling next year's Newsletter. Names to [editor@agsfp.com](mailto:editor@agsfp.com)

B.K.C.

### **Club Centre**

The Club Centre has undergone extensive refurbishment over the summer and autumn and is now looking fresh and welcoming. All the main areas of the premises have been repainted, the various meeting rooms have been extensively renovated and the toilets have been upgraded to a major degree. The old heavy black padded doors into the main bar have been replaced by modern glass doors bearing the Club Badge and the whole effect is to make that part of the premises inviting. New carpeting has been laid in the main entrance hall and on the staircase to the upper floors.

The work has taken longer than anticipated, but the result has been well worth the wait. It was somewhat of a shock in mid-December, just when the weather was at its coldest, to find that the central heating boiler had come to the end of its useful life. Thankfully replacement did not take too long and all is comfortable again. It is interesting to reflect that the last major alterations to the premises were carried out in 1975, and the boiler dates back to that era. It is not surprising that the Centre had been looking a bit tired of late, but that is now behind us. The work now completed is just the first part of a larger project which it is hoped can be tackled in the near future to bring the premises fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our new caterer, Heather, has now established herself and has successfully weathered her first major challenge which was the Hogmanay party. Lunches are available on Fridays and Saturdays. Private functions can be catered for and Heather will be happy to discuss your requirements. Please call the Bar staff on 316827 for further information.

Rooms are available for business meetings and catering can be provided; we can also help with family parties, Reunions and Anniversaries as well !! Contact Maggie Tirey, the Centre Manager, for rates and additional information – telephone 316827 or email [CentreManager@agsfp.com](mailto:CentreManager@agsfp.com)

### **Canadian Centre**

The 18th Annual Reunion Weekend of the Club's Canadian Centre was held in Ottawa last September and was attended by 34 FPs, spouses and guests who travelled from Ontario, British Columbia, Missouri, and

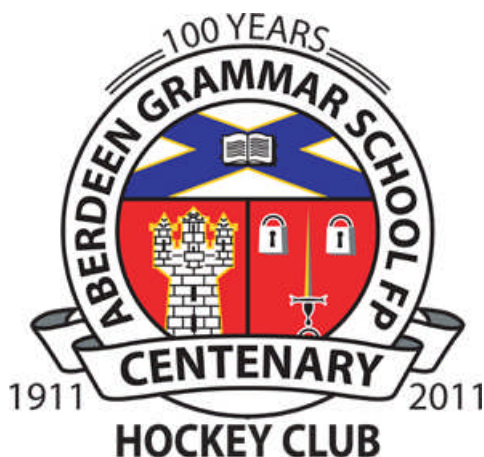
Utah - and we were delighted to welcome the FP Club President, Donald Lamont, and his wife Lynda, who travelled from Sussex, England to represent the Parent Club.

The reunion followed the now traditional pattern of a Friday evening get-together, a formal dinner on the Saturday in the Royal Ottawa Golf Club and brunch on the Sunday. At the dinner, George Stephen (1936-42) was installed as our new president and he later proposed the toast to the Club and the School in a most interesting and lively speech about his school days during the Second World War.

We are sad to report the death of George Rickart (1923-30) who was the FP Club's most senior member. We were very proud to have George as our Canadian Centre President in 2005. He was a most delightful person and an inspiration to us all. In 2009, at the age of 96, he drove himself to our Annual Reunion Weekend. He will be sadly missed.

Sadly, we also received news in November that our new President, George Stephen, was seriously ill in hospital. We have since learned that he is now out of the Critical Care Unit and making slow progress. Those who have met George will remember his great enthusiasm and energy at our FP reunions in Toronto and Ottawa and we can only hope that this will help him through this crisis. Our thoughts are with him and his wife Lorna.

Gillian Thomas, living in Calgary, has taken over from Halsey Bradford as Secretary of the Centre.



The Hockey Section, having been founded in 1911, celebrates its Centenary this year and a comprehensive series of events, as follows, will take place throughout the year to mark the occasion.

Fri. January 14th	Centenary Ceilidh / Dance at the Forum, dancing to Hedgehog Pie
Sat. January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Photograph at Rubislaw Memorial Pavilion steps
Fri. 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> April	European Youth Tournament, The Hague, Holland
Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup> /11 <sup>th</sup> June	Youth Tournament Under-18s at Rubislaw
Fri. 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Golf Tournament
	Civic Reception at Aberdeen Town House
Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> /26 <sup>th</sup> June	Veterans' Tournament at Rubislaw
Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup> June (pm)	AGSFP Ladies' 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v North District XI at Rubislaw
	AGSFP Men's 1 <sup>st</sup> XI v Scottish Hockey XI at Rubislaw
	Centenary Banquet / Dance at Aberdeen Douglas Hotel
Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup> July	1st XI Tournament & BBQ
Fri. 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Centenary Day Social
late November	Grammarians Cup...v AGS Colts
early December	J.P.Drummond Trophy - Grammarians v AGS 1 <sup>st</sup> XI
mid December	Centenary Christmas Social

### Club Website

The Club Website at [www.agsfp.com](http://www.agsfp.com) provides details of social functions and sports activities, in addition to other Club and Club Centre news.

For the value of the website to be fully utilised. input from members is needed. If you have any FP news items, or are arranging any FP events such as class reunions, please email details in good time beforehand and any photos after the event to [chairman@agsfp.com](mailto:chairman@agsfp.com)

Details of members whose Magazine, or other correspondence, has been returned through Royal Mail as 'not known at this address' will shortly be listed on the Website. Members are encouraged to check this and to forward up-to-date addresses to the Membership Secretary.

## News of Former Pupils

Hot off the press is the news from the New Year Honours list that Tracey Jane Menzies (née Robb) has been awarded an MBE in recognition of her services to Women's Hockey. Tracey first took up the sport at School where she was Head Girl in 1986-87, and we congratulate her on this honour.

We regret to have to intimate the deaths of the following FPs in recent months:

**Douglas Bremner** (1950-56)  
**Alastair W. Scott Brown** (1946-52)  
**John W. Cradock** (1940-46)  
**A. Dudley R. Fiddes** (1936-43)  
**Colin G. Kelly** (1940-45)  
**Dennis Kelly** (1940-49)  
**Gordon D. Lamont** (1934-46)  
**Raymond A. Leslie** (1949-52)

**D. Mark W. Nicol** (1931-44)  
**Douglas J.G. Patterson** (1926-31)  
**George Rickart** (1923-30)  
**Eric M. Smith** (1926-38)  
**John C. Smollett** (1938-43)  
**Alan M. Stephen** (1949-58)  
**Ian L. Torvaney** (1943-48)

Obituaries will be published in the next *Magazine*

### Members' Contact Details

We are always anxious to ensure that we have members' contact details up-to-date. Where possible we would wish to send information by e-mail in order to keep costs to a minimum. It would be helpful if members would e-mail the Membership Secretary with their current address, telephone number and contact e-mail address so that we may check this against the information which we hold.

If you require any further information regarding the Club or Club Centre please contact our Chairman, Bob Hutcheson, or any of the other office-bearers listed below:

	<u>FP Club Executive</u>	<u>Club Centre</u>
Chairman	<b>W. Robert Hutcheson</b> (H) 01224 861135 (e) <a href="mailto:Chairman@agsfp.com">Chairman@agsfp.com</a>	<b>Dallas Moir</b> (H) 01224 326552 (e) <a href="mailto:dallas.moir@ge.com">dallas.moir@ge.com</a>
Secretary	<b>Jock Hendry:</b> (W) 01224 585585 (e) <a href="mailto:Secretary@agsfp.com">Secretary@agsfp.com</a>	<b>Brian Deighton:</b> (H) 01224 315862 (e) <a href="mailto:Clubcentre@agsfp.com">Clubcentre@agsfp.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Alan W Marr</b> (W) 01224 590227 (e) <a href="mailto:Treasurer@agsfp.com">Treasurer@agsfp.com</a>	<b>Harvey Morrison</b> (W) 01224 581288 (e) <a href="mailto:centretreasurer@agsfp.com">centretreasurer@agsfp.com</a>
Magazine	<b>Brian Crookshanks</b> (H) 01224 640526 (e) <a href="mailto:Editor@agsfp.com">Editor@agsfp.com</a>	
Membership	<b>Douglas M. Watson</b> (H) 01224 310797 (W) 01224 588913 (e) <a href="mailto:Membership@agsfp.com">Membership@agsfp.com</a>	<b>Douglas M. Watson</b> (H) 01224 310797 (W) 01224 588913 (e) <a href="mailto:centremembership@agsfp.com">centremembership@agsfp.com</a>
Social/Dinner	<b>Laura Jarret</b> (H) 01224 319334 (e) <a href="mailto:the_jarrets@btinternet.com">the_jarrets@btinternet.com</a>	
Club Centre Manager		<b>Maggie Tirey</b> (Office) 01224 316827 (e) <a href="mailto:CentreManager@agsfp.com">CentreManager@agsfp.com</a>

## Annual General Meetings

Members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Former Pupils' Club will be held at the Club Centre, 86 Queen's Road, on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011** at 7.30 pm. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Club Centre.

## The Big Draw

The winners of the main prizes in the Draw during 2010 were as follows:

£250	Gordon Downs	£75	Peter Cromar
£250	Graham Craig	£75	Lucy Mitchell
£250	Douglas Harper	£75	David Greig
£250	Bertram Spence	£75	Ian McIntosh
£100	John Michie	£75	Peter Aiken
£100	Duncan Hopkin	£75	Duncan Macrae
£100	Peter Carry	£50	Bob Philips
£100	Ernie Sutherland	£50	Jim Davidson
£75	Nick Bradford	£50	John Smith
£75	Peter Cooper	£50	Russell Gray

The Draw continues to be well supported and details of the monthly and other winners are published regularly on the Website. The net proceeds are a valuable source of funds for the Club. What is not, perhaps, as widely known as it might be is that the Draw is not restricted to members of the FP Club. If you are not already a subscriber, ask yourself why not? If you cannot give yourself a satisfactory answer then get in touch with either the Membership Secretary or the Treasurer so that arrangements can be made for you. At the same time, please encourage your friends to join as well – you never know, it might be to your and/or their financial advantage!!

## Magazine Notes

The Editor is, as always, looking for information about members for the 'Notes' Section of the *Magazine*. This is the part of the *Magazine* to which most members turn when their copy arrives in the mail. For the help of contributors a form is issued with the *Magazine* each year, but the response is hugely disappointing. Members are encouraged to shed their traditional modesty and keep the Club and their contemporaries up-to-date with what they are doing.

The most recent form has probably by now been misplaced (or worse), but it is sent in more in hope than in expectation. It is not essential, nor need any submission be by snail mail. E-mail is more and more in use, even by our senior members, so there is really no excuse. The Editor wants to hear from YOU.

Members are also encouraged to submit information to assist in the preparation of Obituaries of deceased FPs. These can either be full texts or simply personal recollections and tributes which can be added to formal obituaries, and may be anonymous if desired. Any such will be very welcome and should be sent direct to the Editor whose details are shown in the 'Contacts' paragraph on the previous page.

## Subscriptions

All subscriptions to the FP Club and Club Centre are now due. If you have not already paid, please accept this as a gentle **reminder** to pay. Many thanks are due to those who have taken up the opportunity to pay by Standing Order as this greatly reduces administration. Some payments have yet to be confirmed to us by the Banks, so it would be helpful if members checked their statements to ensure that their payments have been remitted as expected. Payments received are acknowledged in the accompanying letter. For those to whom this reminder applies, the rates are: FP Club Annual £10; Club Centre £50; Associate Club Centre £60; (for those outwith the AB postcode Country rates for the Centre at 50% apply).