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The Royal Northern and University Club Aberdeen

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Issue 42

Club news



Welcome to Issue 42
of the Club News

The privilege of being Chairman of The Royal Northern & University Club has made me look at our Club from a slightly different perspective over the last few months. This is not because I have been suffering from an attack of "introspection" but more because I have been struck by

the amount of feedback I have had from members of our Club and visitors who have enjoyed the facilities. Within a fortnight of taking office I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from a senior diplomat commending the quality of our facilities and catering, but more importantly, the warmth of the welcome he received. I have had similar feedback from members of reciprocal clubs in London who have enjoyed their visits to Albyn Place. This will not come as a surprise to many of you, but I do believe that we sometimes take for granted the unique benefits of our Club. The membership would think it remiss of me if I did not use this "message" to actively encourage all of our members to fully enjoy their Club membership.

The end of November brought not only international rugby in the form of the Samoan 15 to Aberdeen but also, paradoxically, the earliest winter storms that we have had for many years which meant that for a period of some 6 weeks, we suffered significant disruption to daily life. I am pleased to report that your Club remained wind and watertight and hopefully those of you who were not so fortunate at home, are recovering from the damage. Inevitably the Club suffered from cancellation of accommodation and postponement of many functions during this period. This is not a cause for panic but the reality is that we must now make sure that the remainder of 2011 is an active period for the Club and that the members all pull together to support and use our Club as much as they can.

The Annual Burns Supper heralded the start of the 2011 social events and 110 of us enjoyed an excellent evening in the company of friends with good food, wine and a selection of very

accomplished entertainers. It was great to see so many of our members and friends enjoying themselves and very encouraging that such a broad spectrum of our membership was represented. We have a busy calendar of functions throughout the year and I would encourage anyone who was at the Burns Supper to please spread the word and let your fellow members know how much you enjoyed the evening. In May we have our Annual Dinner and it will be our privilege to welcome **Professor Tom Devine** to speak. Professor Devine is an internationally recognised scholar and authority on Scotland and its history. Professor Devine will be an entertaining and thought-provoking speaker, so please do support this event.

I began my message by alluding to the "north east reserve" which often makes us reluctant to shout about our qualities – in this case the quality of our Club. Over the years, your Club has raised significant sums for charity and I know that many of our members have done a great deal over the years to support many local charities. Indeed, it was a pleasure at the Burns Supper to remind the members present of the great work that our Master of Ceremonies, **Ian Fraser**, has done for fund-raising in respect of ophthalmology. Over the last 10 years, the Club has donated more than £35,000 to charity and I hope that in this challenging economic environment, 2011 will be no different. For my own part, I hope to make a significant contribution to this by asking members to sponsor me (in support of our chosen charities UCAN and Children 1st) for a 130 kilometre closed road cycle event which I will be undertaking in Perthshire one Sunday morning in May. More about this in one of our future emails but please do take a moment and reflect upon the contribution that your Club has made to the community over the years.

Our Club is in good heart and we are extremely fortunate to have a strong management team and willing support staff. Your Committee is working hard, not only to maintain standards, but to make small changes and improvements where we can and the membership and development committees, led by **Eddie Anderson** and **Mark McCall** respectively, are working tirelessly to increase our membership and then in turn increase the range of activities available to the members. I close simply by exhorting all of you to ensure and enjoy the success of your Club. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Annual Dinner!

Robert J A Ruddiman Chairman

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DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

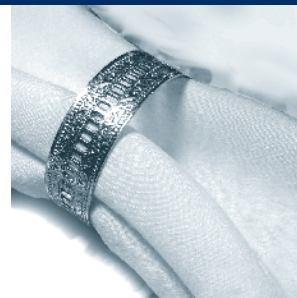
One of the tasks the Development Committee has set itself over the coming year is to look at ways of making the Club's website more relevant to members. The website already provides details of the Club's facilities and of forthcoming events. There is also a section on the website giving information regarding the activities of the ever expanding number of Club Groups. It may be, however, that there are areas where the website could be improved upon to make it a more useful tool for members to keep in touch with the Club. My Committee does not claim to have a monopoly of wisdom here and any suggestions which members wish to put forward for consideration will be gratefully received.

The Committee will also be considering ways to make members more aware of the various events which are taking place within the Club. At present events are advertised on the notice board within the Club, in the Club magazine and in the monthly email which is issued by Miss Black and her team. Unfortunately, however, it is by no means uncommon to hear members say "I didn't know that was on" and it may be that we need to look at other ways of ensuring members are fully aware of everything which is going on in their Club. Again any suggestions put forward by members will receive due consideration.

My Committee will be endeavouring to maintain the high standards set by previous Committees in organising a varied programme of events throughout the year. Inevitably we won't please all of the members all of the time but hopefully there will be something for everybody. It is very rewarding for all concerned when Club events are well supported, not least for the staff of the Club who work very hard to make such events a success; conversely it is extremely disappointing for all concerned when turnout for events is poor.

I would therefore appeal to all members to take an interest on what is going on in your Club and to do what you can to support the excellent programme of events which will be taking place within the Club over the coming year.

The Club Dining Room has a long history of following club traditions that have influenced the style and quality of service the Members benefit from today.



However, what many of the more recently joined Members may not have realized is the existence of a bespoke service unique to the Club: Napkin Ring Valeting.

For many years, dating back to the inception of the Club, Members who planned to dine regularly brought in their own personalized napkin rings to be fitted with a pristine crisp linen napkin. These were carefully stored away in a special cupboard and only saw the light of day when the Member concerned came in for either lunch or dinner. Although there are a few of the older Members who still use this personalized service it seems to be a bit of Club history that is not being passed on to more recent Members.

This is another example of where the Club differs (for the better!) from everywhere else. The personal touch is all important and should be preserved and enhanced where possible. So if you have a napkin ring gathering dust at home, bring it in and we will give it a new lease of life and you will become part of the rich history and valued traditions of the Club.



A Unique and Timeless Gift!

I am fortunate that my 11 year old son has a limitless imagination which generates a seemingly perpetual list of games and expensive artefacts he wants for Christmas or his next birthday. So when these special occasions come round I am not short of choice, and my only real quandary is deciding if we can afford it! So I am fortunate that with minimal thought and effort I can give my son a present that he really wants.

Friends with grown up family have however mentioned that as Rory gets older he will become more discerning and ever harder to find the 'right' present for. I am told this apparently crystallises most acutely by the time our offspring enter their twenties. Why? Because by the time they are 21 they are forging their own independent path, possibly be earning, and no longer waiting for Christmas or birthdays when their parents will buy them that 'must have' gift.

This begins the slippery slide of buying them a jumper, socks and ties which they will thank you for, but quickly consign to the 'never to be worn' drawer in their bedroom!

Additional and increased pressure applies when deciding what to buy your son for his 21st which is still an important birthday, marking the transition to unqualified adulthood. When I reached 21, the gifts of choice were either a silver beer tankard or a watch. Both could of course be inscribed, which gave the parents the feeling they had given a 'timeless' gift – but are either of these gifts pertinent today? Encouraging your son to consume excessive amounts of beer now seems a very dated and almost unacceptable concept, and I'm pretty sure that the timepiece of choice is no longer made in Dundee and will cost several thousand rather than a couple of hundred pounds. Another downside in giving a watch is that whilst it will always remind your son that it was a 21st gift from his parents, it will spend most of its life in a box because he is scared to lose or damage it!

So what gift can you give your son for his 21st or indeed at any stage in his life, which is memorable, meaningful, useful, helpful, and timeless and doesn't cost the equivalent of a London banker's bonus?

What gift can also open doors to a wider world of positive experiences and friendship?

Give up... well actually the answer is right in front of you. Membership of the RNUC of course! The benefits are multiple, and it is hard to find a downside. When someone joins as a 'Junior Member' (age 21-30) there

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

is no joining fee and the annual subscription in 2011 is only £232.50 plus VAT as a Town Member and £116.25 plus VAT for a Country Member. Fantastic value, and at a yearly renewal cost which can easily be met by himself, or perhaps even by the parents – how great would that be as worthwhile Christmas present each year!

Junior Members have full use of the Club facilities and services, including access to reciprocal clubs throughout the UK and the rest of the world, something which could be of enormous benefit and help to them, and give you peace of mind that they are well looked after when 'globe trotting'.

Even if their business and travels don't take them much further afield than Aberdeen. The facilities of the Club would be a great benefit and boost in their early careers – providing them with a unique venue to entertain and impress friends and guests, or perhaps more subtly to socialise with their senior colleagues.

When a member reaches 30, he will automatically become an Ordinary and Standard Member, and although the higher subscription rate then applies, (and hopefully by the age of 30 he can afford to pay it himself!), the joining fee is reduced pro rata to as low as zero if he has been with the Club since age 21.

Aside from your son and yourself directly benefitting from membership, the RNUC would benefit greatly from an increased number of Junior members, and I am not simply referring to the financial benefit. We would hope that the young members become members for life, which will help to secure the Clubs future well past our tenure.

A vibrant junior membership would present new opportunities and fresh thinking to our beloved institution, and I'm sure we would welcome new societies being set up by and for the younger members – perhaps a skiing group (or is that snowboarding!), or climbing (rather than walking) or film society or ?? – the possibilities are endless. In closing I return to watches - which was the 21st gift of choice from my parents.

Patek Philippe, makers of some of the worlds most sought after timepieces focuses it's branding and marketing unashamedly on the values of exclusivity, quality and tradition. Their most recent advertising campaign used the by line, 'You never actually own a Patek Philippe. You only look after it for the next generation'.

Surely this statement and sentiment applies most assuredly to the Royal Northern and University Club as well!

E.Anderson

RECIPROCAL CLUB
The Athenaeum, Liverpool



On a recent visit to Liverpool I visited The Athenaeum, our reciprocal club in the city and how pleased I am that I did. The club is in a superb position right in the centre of the city and yet has an aura of peace and calm. It was founded in 1797 and moved to its present premises in 1928.

The Newsroom, or reading room cum bar, is very spacious with a good supply of newspapers, tables and easy chairs. The club describes the room as “the most splendid room of its kind in Liverpool” and I have no reason to doubt it: ideal for sitting quietly on one’s own, or for chatting with friends and colleagues.

The library started its life in 1848 (or was it 1815) and contains many books, maps and other documents of national importance. The room is truly magnificent and although its privileges are primarily reserved for members of the club, arrangements can be made for others to use it.

Then there is the dining room, another large but comfortable room, on the third floor of the building, with its own bar (there is a lift if you don’t want to use the very grand staircase).

I had a very enjoyable bar snack in the Newsroom and then settled down comfortably with a coffee to read the daily papers. The whole experience was so convenient and enjoyable that I repeated it next day, accompanied by my daughter, who thoroughly enjoyed it too. On our next visit we’ll spoil ourselves and have a proper lunch in the dining room.

The club doesn’t have accommodation but is open in the mornings and afternoons and of course for lunch. There are a number of meeting rooms that can be hired and special functions can be organised (for up to 150) in the evening in one of the principal rooms.

It has a friendly atmosphere and I was made most welcome and certainly on my experience, I can thoroughly recommend The Athenaeum in Liverpool to RNUC Members. Its address and details are in our Reciprocal Clubs booklet and on the website.

Tom Hollobone



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CALENDAR 2011

Sunday 20 February
 Sunday Lunch

Wednesday 23 February
Speaker’s Lunch
 Jacky Baltissen
 Cross Cultural Communications

Saturday 5 March
 Eastern Promise Curry Night

Wednesday 16 March
Speaker’s Lunch
 George Esson, Former Chief Constable
 of Dumfries and Galloway

Saturday 26 March
 Italian Evening

Wednesday 30 March
 Chairman’s Table

Sunday 3 April
 Mothering Sunday Carvery Lunch

Wednesday 20 April
 Chairman’s Table

Friday 6 May
 Normandy and Brittany Evening

ROYAL NORTHERN AND UNIVERSITY CLUB
ANNUAL DINNER

Friday 20 May 2011

The guest speaker will be:

Professor Tom Devine OBE

Sir William Fraser Professor
 of Scottish History and Palaeography
 The University of Edinburgh

His speech will be entitled:

*“A Puzzle from the Scottish Past:
 Why did the Scottish Enlightenment Happen”*

Wednesday 25 May
 Chairman’s Table

Saturday 4 June
 Sherry Tasting and Tapas Bar

Sunday 26 June
 Family Barbecue and Buffet Lunch

Thursday 14 July
 Bastille Day Lunch

Wednesday 31 August
Speaker’s Lunch
 Niall Farquharson
 The Walker Cup comes to Aberdeen

Saturday 17 September
 Traditional Carvery with Puddings Galore



Happy Birthday RIC

In November, the RNUC's second investment club (**Reynolds Investment Club**) celebrated its 10th anniversary with a birthday dinner held at the Club. Of the original 20 members, 16 are still actively involved in the monthly meetings. The 3 'new' members who have joined in place of those who left, have fitted in well to the general amicable discussions of the monthly 'bun fights' of decisions to buy and sell shares, bonds, gold and anything else we can legally 'deal' in. During the 10 years, we have seen great highs and lows. The nadir came early in our investing careers as we learned the ropes. The £50 unit we all buy each month dropped in value to £33.96 after two consecutive disasters in September 2001. However, since then, prudence in our portfolio spread has paid off and in May 2008 (just before Lehman Bros went pear-shaped!) we managed to hit a peak of £71.67.

When we formed the Reynolds Investment Club in November 2000, the FTSE 100 index stood at the heady height of 6,442. Today it stands at around 5,600. This means that we, as amateurs, have managed to outfox the animals in the City! Does this mean that a silver fox is better than a bull or a bear? Unfortunately, we don't get paid million-pound bonuses for doing so.

The recent BP oil spill shows how even a single event can destroy the fortunes of a blue-chip company. The unsolicited take-over of Dana Petroleum shows that predators lurk in the shadows of Stock Exchanges. Despite these events, the enthusiasm of our members has not waned and the anticipation of our Treasurer issuing the monthly figures still gets the pulse going.

As an investment club, the Reynolds is not currently looking for a new member. However, if any RNUC Club member wishes to get involved and to learn the tricks of the world of investment, the 'Third Investment Club' is still open for new members. All you have to do is contact **Robert Brew** at robertbrew@gmail.com and he will be delighted to advise you.

Graham G Farquharson, Secretary, Reynolds Investment Club

Croquet

The 2010 season was an enjoyable one and we were still playing on the magnificent lawn at Crathes Castle in October, taking advantage of the weather when it was suitable. In September we were victorious in our annual match against Fife Croquet Club. In our team that day, and a member of our Group, was **Bob Burnett**, three times Scottish Champion. Although resident in Somerset, Bob, who is a member of the Burnett of Leys family, comes to play with us from time to time and conducts coaching sessions.

Bob will be with us from 7 to 9th May 2011 to conduct a croquet coaching course, which will accommodate players of different standards, from beginners to low handicappers. This is probably a unique opportunity for players in the North East...and members of RNUC... to learn from one of the countries leading players.

Our members **Brian Flavill, Alex Burns, Colin Taylor** and **Charles Henderson** are already "signed up". Why not join them? Our season will start in April assuming the weather is decent. Any more information can be obtained from **Charles Henderson** on 313555/318448.



Gardening Society

The new Session is now well under way. In October we started the Session with a talk on garden bulbs and a demonstration on planting these. The following month there was a demonstration of Floral Art for the benefit of our lady members who steadfastly support the group. In January we had a repeat visit from **Sandy Inkster** who had been our Speaker at our inaugural Meeting in November 2008. Once again he imparted some of his tremendous knowledge on all things horticultural this time giving lots of advice on pruning and cuttings. Over the coming months we have talks on the Historic Roses of Drum Castle, the proposed developments at the Duthie Park and also a talk on the growing of Streptocarpus by our esteemed Treasurer of our group **Mr Alan Amooore**. For our summer outings we hope to have a visit to the Beechgrove Garden and to another little known but fascinating garden belonging to a Club member. Our membership has continued to grow and we now have over 30 members most of whom attend on a regular basis. If you would like to join us please contact Miss Black at the Club or myself **Sandy Mitchell** on 318266 or on kinver138@btinternet.com

Discussion Group

We are now well through our programme for the 2010/2011 meetings and since my last article for the magazine last August, we have had a brainstorming night on current news, talks covering **'The most significant event in the history of Scotland'** (try to guess or **Charles Henderson** can enlighten you), **Gold Revisited** by **Peter Watt** and in February **'The Ethics of War'** was the topic of **Ian Kernohan**.

In March **Gordon Williamson** is to lead the meeting with his subject **'Democracy - Yesterday's Ideology'** while later in April **Colin Taylor** will talk on the heading **'The Bee in your Bonnet'**.

The aim of our Group, which is now in our 5th year, is to promote discussion, educate and entertain our members on a wide range of topics, both serious and light hearted with the speaker choosing his subject and depending on the nature of it, either presenting a talk with discussion afterwards or engaging the members present to join in and analyse the subject as the talk processes.

We meet in the Reynolds Room on the first Tuesday of the month from October until June excluding January. We meet at 6.00pm, the session lasting usually about just over an hour then those who wish stay on for supper.

All are very welcome and if you wish more information either contact Miss Black or myself. My telephone number is 01224 869061.

Bill Mitchell Chairman



Snooker Section 2010-2011

The entry for the competition this year is slightly reduced. There are four teams in the Doubles and ten players in the singles. In the Doubles the five teams all play each other in a league and the best two teams compete in the final. In the singles there are two leagues of five players. Each player plays the four others in the league and the best player in each league will compete in the final.

Both singles and doubles competitions are fully underway. In the doubles, **Carl McAndrew** and **Jimmy Guthrie** are in the lead with two wins but last year's Champions, **Iain Smith** and **Alex Cameron**, have yet to come to the table.

In the singles, in League A **Mike Hewitt** has played all his games and has 2 points. **Jimmy Guthrie** leads the table at present with two wins but last year's Champion, **Iain Smith**, has played one victorious match so the competition is warming up. In League B only one game has been played with a victory for **Carl McAndrew** so no trend can be predicted.

It is planned to complete the competitions by the end of April.

Mike Hewitt



Curling Section

The Curling season has been under way since the beginning of September 2010. The RNUC Curling Section has met for its regular fortnightly ice on Wednesdays at 10.00 am at Curl Aberdeen. The sessions have been well attended with the standard of play now on a plateau. Good fun has been had by all, especially when the less skilful curlers have had their chance to be 'Skip' and boss others around.

The season has been well supported by our regular attendees and it is especially good to see **Evelyn Chisholm** back from injury and in sparkling form.

This season will end with a Bonspiel on Wednesday 23rd March at the usual time of 10.00 am. Thereafter, we will repair to the Club for a celebratory lunch for competitors and partners. The annual prize giving will take place at the meal. I am assured that, this year, our celebrations do not clash with any major Club events.

APM



Chess Group

The Reconquest of Spain and the Birth of the Chess Queen.

Those members and I am sure there are many, who like listening to the late night essay on BBC Radio 3, may have enjoyed the recent series on the subject of chess. For a week listeners were entertained on divers aspects of the game, its history and its influence on society. One essay by **Marylin Yalom**, author of a book on the Chess Queen, discussed the impact on the game of the Catholic re-conquest of Spain in 1492 by Queen Isabella of Castille and her husband Ferdinand of Aragon. Chess, which the Arabs had learned from their Persian and Indian conquests had been introduced into Andalusia by the Moors and was a popular pastime among Muslims, Christians and Jews alike, notwithstanding some members of the Christian clergy who regarded the game as Islamic, and therefore not suited for Catholics.

The earliest manuscripts place the original chess Queen on the board in the 10th century. She played a much weaker role and was only allowed to move one square at a time and only on the diagonal. The game played by the Moors had a Vizier (minister-in-chief) next to the King. The Vizier was a powerful figure in the courts of Moorish Spain. Indeed often the King or Emir was merely a figurehead and real power rested with the Vizier, as was the case in the Emirate of Cordoba in the 12th century. The Vizier was able to move diagonally and in straight lines, and over the whole length of the board. Since the days of Hannibal of Carthage and Abraha of Abyssinia, the elephant, or fil in Arabic, played an important and devastating role in military campaigns. The fil was a powerful piece on the board and could move diagonally across the board. The object of the game was to check (threaten) the King with no avenue for escape resulting in check mate.

With the fall of the Moors' last redoubt, the Al-Hamra, in 1492, the culturally rich 700 year reign of the Muslims ended in Spain. Isabella reunited Spain and is credited for her political genius. Her most influential advisors were the Bishops of Rome and she is also remembered for instituting the Spanish inquisition and the oppression of Jews and Muslims in Spain. And the game of chess was transformed too. Isabella's combination of strategic genius and cold hearted destruction led to the dominating power of the Chess Queen in modern chess which was first known as "Queen's" chess. In keeping with changing times the Vizier of Moorish chess was replaced by the all powerful Queen and the fil (elephant) was replaced by the Bishop, thus bringing the game of chess in line with the politics of the day.

This historical anecdote reminds us of how major political events can have an impact on seemingly mundane activities. In our monthly games of chess at the Club, the next time I use the Queen's Indian opening against my friendly rival Mr Swami, I might reflect for a moment on the earth shattering events of the culmination of the Reconquista five hundred years ago. **Izhar Khan**



RNUC Bridge Group

We started the season on 5th October 2010 and ran through the first session until the 14 December. **Fred Pidcock** travelled down from the far north for one evening in October. He then put us all to shame by travelling down to Aberdeen on 30 November through wind and snow only to find the evening's bridge had been cancelled, while he was in transit, due to the really bad road conditions in Aberdeen. We hope it does not put him off for the remainder of the season.

We had 8 players on most occasions but it has been more difficult to keep a full complement, as we have one member unable to participate at present. We manage quite well with 7 by juggling the dummy but any fewer creates a problem.

We started off the second session in January with 6 players and snooker absorbed the slack as players rotated. We are expecting to field 8 for most evenings subject to colds, weather and other commitments. We could do with a few more members to enable us to have 8 players every evening. The evenings are most enjoyable, enthusiasm is high and it never gets too serious. Why not give it a try? We play on Tuesday evening from 7pm to about 10pm. Any member who is interested should contact **Mike Hewitt** on 07968 032378 or leave their details with Miss Black.

The session continues until 26 April and we are looking forward to the rest of the season culminating in the Ladies Evening early in May.

Mike Hewitt



Reading Group

The Reading Group had a Russian evening in August with the discussion of a short story **Hadji Murat** by **Tolstoy** and **Dostoyevsky's** rather intimidating **The Idiot**. The Tolstoy short story and those accompanying it in the collection were a revelation to the group, his descriptions of the siege of Sevastopol where Tolstoy served as a soldier predated the bombardment in the trenches of the Great War; and the struggles in the Caucasus where Tolstoy saw active service are with us today. Dostoyevsky was much less accessible, much harder work - he may not be invited back.

The fiftieth anniversary of the publication of **The Spy Who Came In From The Cold** with its connection to the books above and the recently read **The Riddle of the Sands** was the main course for the September evening with William Boyd's spy tale **Restless** to accompany it. The period detail - and possibly the whole world - of the Cold War and a London as different as that of Dickens gave **The Spy** a rather dated feel while Boyd's detailed research into what we would now call covert operations of the UK in the USA early in the Second World War provided the setting for an updated spy story with a clear link to the Cambridge spies of the 1950's. Anyone who enjoyed the recent television dramatisation of Boyd's **Any Human Heart** should seek out the book for the full appreciation of the story.

Every now and then the group decides to read one or two of those eternal classics which are always being quoted or cited, so come November the group was dining to discuss **Voltaire's Candide** and **Tomasi id Lampedusa's The Leopard**. Candide was highly amusing and very well liked while **The Leopard** was met with indifference and a sense the circumstances of the book's publication, the only work of a twice rejected dying author, had rather favoured its posterity.

Who reads **Somerset Maugham** nowadays? A good question to which the group responded with the selection of **The Razor's Edge** for January along with a much - perhaps over - acclaimed post war western **All the Pretty Horses** by **Cormac McCarthy**, a writer who has more recently found fame with films of his books **The Road** and **No Country for Old Men**. The popularity and financial success of **Maugham** in his day can hardly be appreciated from 2011, but he wrote about a world he knew - and there is much to be said for that. He also wrote clearly and elegantly, two qualities seen as superfluous by McCarthy with his complete lack of punctuation, his sparse dialogue and the use of Spanish dialogue without recourse to translation. Perhaps because of the success of his filmed work and the way the Western became a film genre, the book failed to enthral the group; unlike the outstanding Tex-Mex meal followed by apple pie and ice cream which the group thoroughly enjoyed. The tradition of book-themed dining is a unique advantage of the Club based group - and always make the book discussions extra special.

In March it will be the turn of a true classic with **Flaubert's Madame Bovary**; the group has a good core attendance, but is always pleased to welcome other readers in the Club.



RNUC Film and Theatre Group

At the start of 2011 we are looking to have another interesting year of Theatre and film shows for all our members.

The Group has been established for a number of years and generally meets once a month, usually on the second Wednesday of every month, except in July and August. Members on their own as well as with spouses/partners are very welcome and the format is one of meeting for dinner at the Club and then going to the Theatre/Cinema or having an in-house Film and finishing off with a coffee back at the club. It is a social evening and is about enjoyment.

This year we have planned to start with:

- The film the '**King's Speech**' in January
- The play the '**History Boys**' in February
- The musical the '**Avenue**' in March

The programme for later months is still to be firmed up and we intend in June going as a group to Pitlochry (or some other Theatre out of town for up to 2 nights and some golf perhaps).

We always welcome new members to the group and if you would like to know more or join us - give **John Craig** a call.



The Lion Bites Back

Scots Heraldry and the Role of the Procurator Fiscal to the Court of the Lord Lyon

Alexander M S Green, Procurator Fiscal to the Lyon Court

The Club is very fortunate and honoured to have ties with the Lyon Court stretching back over many years. In 1989, the Club's arms were formally unveiled by the Duke of Edinburgh in the presence of Lord Lyon, Sir Malcolm Innes.



Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire has a very rich heraldic tradition and we also have a fine coat of arms.

The arms concisely set out our history and represent the Club's close ties to the city of Aberdeen and the University of Aberdeen. The triple towers are taken from the arms of the city of Aberdeen. The crown tower refers to King's College and the Boar's head refers to old Aberdeenshire county (probably also an allusion to Lord Aberdeen and Gordon family). The arms also show its pedigree by reflecting the existence of both the former Royal Northern Club and the University Club whose merger created the Club that we enjoy today. For me, this is what makes heraldry so interesting because it tells a story by using signs and symbols to identify who we are and what we stand for.

I think that the Club's arms are also a fine example of the purity of Scottish heraldry in comparison to other systems across the world. In Scotland we have a system of heraldry par excellence which is no mere historical accident but the consequence of a unique legal tradition which has enabled Scotland to develop and maintain the finest system of heraldry in the world. Put simply, our heraldic tradition is what it is because it has the protection of the law through the Lyon Court and its Procurator Fiscal.

In late July 2010, I was very honoured to take up office as the latest Procurator Fiscal to the Lyon Court and since then I have been really quite busy dealing with a wide variety of issues touching and concerning the use of heraldry, clan badges and flags in Scotland and I thought that it might be interesting for members to know something about what I do.

It is perhaps useful to start from first principles by providing a definition of what Arms are taken to mean. In 1722, Alexander Nisbet wrote his System of Heraldry. Nisbet, who is considered to be an Institutional Writer (i.e. an authoritative source of Scots law) defined Arms and heraldry as:

Arms have been taken by all nations, and in all ages, for military marks and signs of honour; by which, not only persons, families and communities are distinguished and known, but nobles also distinguished from plebeians, and nobles amongst themselves. Which marks and signs were called arms; because in ancient times, they were painted, or engraven on shields, and other pieces of armour; as also, upon banners and pennons, from when they are called armorial ensigns; And being likewise embroidered or painted on the surcoats of military men, which they wore over their armour, to distinguish them in battle, they called coats of arms... I define Arms, hereditary marks of honour, regularly composed of certain tinctures and figures, granted or authorised by sovereigns, for distinguishing, differencing and illustrating persons, families and communities.

In more recent times, we owe much to work of Lord Lyon Sir Thomas Innes of Learney who did much to develop the Lyon Court in the second half of the last century. He viewed heraldry as:

a living science, which still enters into our everyday life much more than people might imagine, and Scottish Heraldry in particularly so, since its laws are subject to the Courts of the Realm and a growing mass of case-law keeps steadily adapting the science to individual needs and the requirements of modern life...Scots heraldry has long been famous, on account not only of its antiquity but also its simplicity, its scientific accuracy, and the manner in which it has preserved the high standard of mediaeval armory during periods when both heraldic principles and heraldic art of other countries suffered from various forms of decadence.

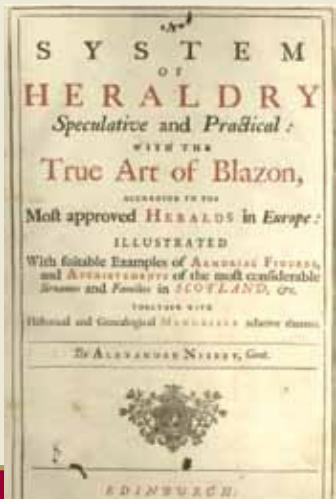
So much then for the definitions; what of the legal dimension and the role of the Lyon Court? The law is embodied by two Acts of the Scottish Parliament of 1592 and 1672 (both written in Scots). Briefly, persons or corporations who display heraldic devices to which they do not have a lawful right commit an offence under Scots Law. The use of symbols and devices which may be classed as a part of the system of heraldry is strictly controlled in Scotland and there is a Public Register of Arms and all such symbols must be recorded if they are to be legally used in Scotland. The Crown charges fees for recording and as a consequence, it is only right that it extends protection to those who comply with the law by preventing infringement by others: either copying existing Arms as if they were theirs or devising Arms without registration. Those who use arms without right may sometimes do so in ignorance



Sir Thomas Innes of Learney
Lord Lyon (1945-1969)



The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings of Scotland. The Register is held at the Court of The Lord Lyon and contains every grant of arms since 1672. It now consists of over eighty volumes of parchment, and is illustrated by a succession of the most prominent heraldic artists working in their field. As a public register, it can be seen by anyone on application, and on payment of a statutory fee. Bearings that are not matriculated in the Register may not be used in Scotland and to do so is a criminal offence



of the law but it is always for a purpose: to convey a sense of status, establishment or quality. So the position then is very similar to our laws relating to Intellectual Property, Trademarks and Copyright. It should be noted that even where an heraldic device has been incorporated into a Registered Trademark the 'mark' cannot be used in any way which would amount to an assertion (actual or implied) that the trademark holder has the right to use the Arms as their own.

The illegal display of arms is essentially one where the Lyon Court exercises a State Revenue jurisdiction. The Court protects the rights of private individuals and the Crown in Scottish Armorial bearings. Lord Lyon Sir Thomas Innes regarded this as a matter of signal importance, for where persons or corporations have paid fees to the Crown in return for the exclusive right to armorial bearings, it is only proper that these rights should be protected.

In my capacity of Procurator Fiscal it is my role to investigate alleged breaches of the law of Arms and to take appropriate enforcement action and there are penalties for infringing such rights and it is my to deal with those issues relating specifically with heraldry because of its unique and important role in Scots culture particularly in relation to the clan system. My rather draconian powers include:

Under the 1592 Act:

And lykways under the pane of ane hundreth pundis to the vse of the said lyoun and his brether heraldis. And fauzeing of payment thairof. That thay be incarcerat in the narrest prissone, Thairin to remane, vpon their awin chargis, during the plesour of the said Lyoun.; and

Item, Because the jurisdiction of the Lyon King-of-Armes is not able to execute dew punishment upon all persones that sail happen to offend in the office of Armes: Therefore our Sovereine Lord, with advise of his three Estaites in Parliament, ordainis and commandis all civil Magistrats, as they sall be required be the King of Armes, or ony utheris in his name, to concur with him, to see the acts maid in his favours of his office put to dew execution in their jurisdictions:

As alsua to concur with him, to the punishment and incarceration of all sik persones as sall usurp the bearing of his Maiestie's Armes after dew deprivation, under the pain of rebellion, and putting of the disobeyers to his Hienesse home; with certification to them, and they fauzie, being required, letters sall be direct simpliciter to put them to the horne.



Grant of arms to Alexander Michael Stuart Green - a wonderful example of the exquisite art and calligraphy of the herald painters at the Lyon Court

Under the 1672 Act:

And that whosoevir shall vse any other Armes any manner of way aftir the expiring of year and day from the date of the Proclamation to be issued herevpon, in maner forsaid, shall pay One Hundred pounds money toties quoties to the Lyon, and shall likeways escheat to his Maiestie all the moveable Goods and Geir vpon which the saids Armes are engraven or otherwise represented : And his Maiestie, with consent forsaid, Declaires that it is onlie allowed for Noblemen and Bishopes to subscribe by their titles; and that all others shall subscribe their Christned names, or the initial letter therof with there sirmames, and may, if they please, adject the designations of their lands, prefixing the word "Of" to the saids designations: And the Lyon King-at-Armes and his Brethren are required to be carefull of informing themselvis of the contraveiners heriof, and that they acquaint his Maiesties Council therwith, who are hereby empowered to punish them as persones disobedient to, and contraveiners of the Law.

I regularly deal with complaints concerning alleged infringements of the Law of Arms from a variety of sources. I have not yet had to move for a fine of £100 Scots or escheat the offender's moveable property bearing the offending arms. I prefer to take a pragmatic approach! Many of my cases concern unregistered 'DIY' heraldry but also usurpations of registered arms. Each complaint is investigated on its merits and it is always a matter of my absolute discretion to decide whether to prosecute infringements. If I decide to act I will do so by letter, warning or, if necessary, by way of prosecution before the Lyon Court. I generally find that the wrongdoer has done his acted in ignorance of the law and without any malicious or deceitful intent and the problem is readily resolved by a suitably worded undertaking.

If a prosecution is necessary, the Lyon Court issues a precept which is served on the offender by messengers-at-arms. Prosecutions are essentially against those who improperly usurp armorial bearings, and in view of the financial interest of the Treasury, the Scots courts of appeal regard the Procurator Fiscal's intervention as analogous to an HMRC prosecution. Put bluntly it's basically tax evasion to display unregistered arms and those who transgress can expect the 'Lion to bite back'!

Any member who wishes to use Arms must petition the Lyon Court for a Grant of Arms or - if they can trace their ancestry back to an ancestor who had a grant of Arms - a 'matriculation' showing their place within the family. When a grant, or matriculation, of Arms is obtained, an illuminated parchment, narrating the pedigree as proved, is supplied to the Petitioner, and a duplicate is recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland.



Hillwalking

August Outing Glen Dye



The August programme for the 12 Strollers on the day commenced with them assembling at the Deeside Golf Club car park prior to heading off on a sunny clear morning. Safely arriving at the Spital Burn 6 miles west of Strachan, the party scaled the stile into the estate and, crossing the bridge over the Water of Dye, set off along the valley of the Dye Water. Joseph Grant, the well known Deeside writer, described this area as “the beautiful valley of Glen Dye – an oasis in a desert” Whilst it was a warm and sunny day it was hardly desert conditions, but the views were wonderful as a gap in the hills northwards showed Clachnaben at its best. Continuing on towards the Water of Charr and ascending one of the few steep parts of the walk, the group arrived at its half way stop - the Fasque Bothy. The bothy sits in quiet restful spot looking over paths to Mount Battock and the Cairn o’ Mount. Picnic consumed and the Strollers rested, it was off on the return leg heading for Glendye Lodge on the “high road “ back with views eastwards to the B974 heading to Fettercairn. On arriving back at the stile (which seemed to have increased in height) the strollers had all but completed the outing except, of course, for the essential visit to the Feughside Inn for welcome refreshment. **Alex Urquhart**

Fetternear Bishop’s Palace October Walk



The October Walk was to Fetternear Estate – the Bishop’s Palace near Kemnay and then along the banks of the River Don, a distance of 7 miles. We all met at the Kemnay Golf Club for a bacon roll before setting off through Kemnay outskirts to the Fetternear Estate. The weather was fine and became warmer during the walk so the scenery was enhanced with sunshine most of the time.

We visited the remains of Fetternear House and Bishop’s Palace first. Once the country seat of bishops of Aberdeen, it is now an archaeological site for the universities and has been for a good number of years. The walk then took us north along the west side of the River Don through woods and farmland until we reached the Backhill Foot Bridge which we crossed to head back south along the East bank to Kemnay.

The east side is more the residential outskirts of Kemnay and we enjoyed the picturesque walk past individually designed houses some quite large with well cultivated gardens, some with areas for horses, stables and paddocks.

We returned through Kemnay to the Golf Club where we watched the golfers whilst having well earned refreshments. **John Craig**

September Awaydays

On September 15th and 16th, 2010, the Strollers had their annual away day at Boat of Garten.

After an early start from Aberdeen, in doubtful weather, some 14 walkers met at the Old Fire Station, Tomintoul, for bacon rolls and refreshments before repairing to the Visitor Centre at Loch Morlich. The weather by now had improved and, although the sun was not shining brilliantly, the clouds had lifted and the Cairngorms could be seen in all their autumnal glory. For those who were on the trip, you might notice a little poetic licence. It was not raining.

The main objective of the day was to walk the Ryvoan and Lochan Uaine Circuit. We set out on schedule just after 11.00 am and reached our goal at about lunchtime. Ryvoan Bothy is a beautiful, quiet spot but was, on this occasion, filled by a horde of schoolchildren so lunch was al fresco. I am indebted to my companions who provided my wife and I with tasty scraps as our pack lunch lingered in our Aberdeen refrigerator. However, I did have a map and compass and managed to lead the motley throng back to the cars at Loch Morlich without incident. A total of some eight miles (10.5 Kilometers) passed very quickly with the help of merry banter, embrocation and walking sticks.

At this point we set off for the Boat Hotel at Boat of Garten to have afternoon tea. In the evening, we all dined well in a private room where Hazel and Tom Hamilton joined the party. We all had a pleasant evening.

After a hearty breakfast for all but Eleanor and Charles Henderson who were rendered invisible to the waiters, a group of four males went off to Nethybridge to play golf while the distaff side made their way to the Revack Gift Shop at Grantown-on-Spey. The golf result is sub judice but great use of plastic was made at Revack. All returned safely to Aberdeen. **APM**



Deeside Stroll

November

After a week of almost continual rain, the weather on Sunday was pleasant and dry with conditions underfoot surprisingly good.

Leaving Banchory eastwards the walk followed a line between the old Deeside railway line and the river Dee. Although November, there was still considerable greenery which made for a pleasant route, with views of the river as we walked towards Milton of Crathes noting the amount of work carried out in the restoration of the old railway line.

Crossing below the A 93 along the banks of the Coy Burn to the Crathes Castle lake and following the meandering woodland trail, via the boardwalk which was extended by BP staff in 2000, brought us to Crathes Castle and a welcome hot bowl of soup in the Courtyard Restaurant.

Leaving Crathes Castle behind us after the break via Carolyn’s garden and exiting the grounds through the West Lodge entrance brought us back again to our Deeside path for our return to Banchory. **Alan Sainsbury**



January Hill Walk

Once again the Strollers were incredibly lucky with the weather for the first walk of the year. The sun was shining and the skies were bright blue as the group assembled at the Coast Guard Station, Donmouth Road, Bridge of Don. Originally the walk had been scheduled for Blackhall and the lower slopes of Scolty, at Banchory, but it was decided that as the roads and paths there were still ice-bound, discretion was the better part of valour and a rethink was required.

A relatively gentle walk along the sands seemed an appropriate alternative. Gentle on the way north, but as it turned out considerably less gentle on the way back as the strong wind was doing its best to take us back to whence we had come!



The positive aspect of the wind was the dramatic spindrift from the waves as they crashed in close to our feet. Many of the photographers in the party wished they had brought their cameras, so dramatic were the scenes of blue skies, yellow sands and white crashing waves. Such was the intensity of some of the conversations as members walked along the beach that one or two got caught out with a sudden surge of water up the beach and ended up with wet feet.

It should have been a straightforward walk but nothing in life seems ever to be straightforward and this walk was no different. The combination of the high tide and the volume of water pouring down on to the beach from the various streams and drains on the golf course side induced some members to go dune climbing to avoid the obstacles while others 'limboed' under the vast waste pipe, since to take the more normal route at the edge of the water was to invite yet another soaking of feet and trousers. It was a pleasure to have **Tom** and **Marjory Reid** walking with us for the first time and to see the return of **Jean** and **Ronnie Scott Brown** to the group after their difficult year.

Fortuitously the date of the walk coincided with a Sunday lunch day at the Club so the group took advantage of the coincidence and returned there to enjoy an excellent Carvery Lunch and a 'medicinal' beverage. 🍷



Mah Jong

The Mah Jong group meets on Tuesday afternoons from 2 till 5 in the Library with a break for refreshments and chat. Most of us who play started as beginners at the Club and are very pleased to welcome new faces and pass on the little knowledge we've gathered! It is not rocket science and is quickly picked up and is a very entertaining way to spend a winter's afternoon.

Cherished Car Group

In 2010 we had three outings. The first on the 25th April we met at the Lecht, lunched at Archiestown, and on to a tour of Glen Grant Distillery. The second was on the 29th August and started at Colquhonnies Hotel and covered roads in upper Deeside. Our third Meeting which was on the 31st of October started at the Ramsay Arms Hotel in Fettercairn and ended at Farnell near Brechin.



You will see that the pattern of the outings have developed in form so that we meet at a hotel for lunch then follow a route created by **Peter Young** to end up at some point of local interest. The format seems to work well and we hope to continue with three outings in 2011.

We start the season with an evening meeting at the Club on Thursday 17th February at 7-30pm when a DVD on Goodwood 2010 will be shown. The first outing will take place on Sunday 17th April details will be discussed at the February Meeting.

Anyone interested in joining us has a car or motorbike they "cherish" contact **Bruce Cochrane** at bruce.cochrane@btinternet.com

Scottish Country Dancing Group

The Scottish Country Dancing group met on Wednesday 8th Sept 2010 for the first of its ten weekly sessions in St. Margaret's School for Girls. The number of meetings was increased to ten by popular demand and has been enjoyed, hopefully, by all those who have attended them through to mid November. The customary programme of dances was entertained with such old faithfuls as the Duke & Duchess of Edinburgh, Hamilton House, Eightsome Reel and Duke of Perth now well kent friends holding no fears for the established dancers in the group. The new members joining this session were soon comfortably participating with the best and in line with the old hands for new challenges.

Working through the more involved dances such as Mairi's Wedding, Postie's Jig and Machine Without Horses and feeling at home with these, a new demand was sought for the group's dancing and memory abilities. The Sixteensome Reel was to be the challenge and after a few false starts at accomplishing the task, in which on occasions 'chairs' were co-opted to make up the numbers, success was achieved (to a loud chorus of hysterical cheers). The Sixteensome Reel required that each couple remembered their number and position in the reel. Troubles occurred when dancers moved from their familiar positions and forgot their given numbers. But like all experienced troopers these problems were soon left behind and the Sixteensome held no fears for the RNUC dancers.



Numbers present this year were well up on previous sessions with the attendant enthusiasm to participate a characteristic of the group. The 'away' events started with the Aberdeenshire Reels first meeting in Monymusk on the 16th October, which was deemed to be a great success. The second date on this calendar of events was to be at Glen Tanar which was cancelled because of the exceptional snowfall experienced at that time. Not to be deprived of an outing, a spontaneous ceilidh was organised by the sterling efforts of **Hugh** and **Jenny Gibson** in the St. Machar Cathedral Hall, after the customary hamper supper, but this time in the Gibson's home. The group thank Hugh and Jenny most sincerely for their initiative and generous hospitality. The 9th February 2011 is to be the occasion of our annual get together and supper in the Club, followed on 26th February with a new venue in the AUOTC, Roy Strathdee Building, Old Aberdeen. After the March visit to Udry on the 26th there is the usual wait for the Summer Hoolie in Lonach Hall Colquhonnies on the 4th June and thanks to **Kate Hutchison's** administrative talents, the hotel accommodation has been secured for the RNUC dancers.

As always new beginners and old hands are welcome to join this band of enthusiasts. They need have only willingness to enjoy themselves and a finely honed sense of humour. **Alex Urquhart**

New Club Groups

Several new groups are in the process of getting together, in particular a **Musical Group** and also one devoted to **Photography**. Keep a look out for details of the inaugural meetings. Further suggestions have been received but at the moment are still lacking sufficient support:

Racing Society
Travellers Group
Skiing Section
Clay Pigeon Shooting

If you would like to become involved in any of them please append your name to the appropriate Notice. Additionally some longer established sections are actively seeking more participants:

Mah Jong, Bridge and Chess.

For further information on any of the groups mentioned please contact the Club Office on 01224 583292 or secretary@rnuc.org.uk



George Cruickshank

25 February 1930 – 12 January 2011

George Cruickshank was an architect and town planner whose expertise in the public and private sectors helped to shape the changing face of Fife and Aberdeen. Involved in creating the new town of Dalgety Bay in the 1960s, he also oversaw much of the expansion of the Aberdeen suburb of Bridge of Don in the 1970s and masterminded the development of the Aberdeenshire village of Kingswells in the 1980s. He gained a scholarship to Stonehaven's Mackie Academy where he developed an interest in architecture and a talent for line drawing. At the Aberdeen School of Architecture he won a further scholarship to study French architecture and, in the late 1940s, set off from Scotland on his motorbike on a six week tour of France. He qualified in 1953, and later became an architect with Aberdeen City Council and designed the original cafe in the city's Hazlehead Park, where his children would later enjoy an ice cream in "Daddy's cafe". He was also responsible for Aberdeen's first block of multi-storey flats, in Ashgrove Road West. By 1958 he had moved to Dundee, and then to Dunfermline and a post as senior assistant with Russell Orme and Partners, at which time he was involved with the design of the new town of Dalgety Bay. In 1963 he moved back into the public sector as an architect and planning officer for the Royal Burgh of Dunfermline. However, he was back in Aberdeen by 1968, as county planning officer for Aberdeenshire County Council and was involved in many projects at the dawn of the North Sea oil industry. He became a partner in the Aberdeen office of Baxter Clark and Paul architects in 1972 and in the mid-1970s, while still working there, was director of town and regional planning at Dundee University. He remained with the firm until retiring

in 1990 but continued to do consulting work, appearing at numerous planning inquiries as an expert witness. He had also been involved in Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce and was a member of Grampian Housing Association where he was valued for his unique wisdom and depth of knowledge, his work as a loyal and supportive member and his sharp wit and fathomless sense of humour. George was a Fellow and past president of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, a Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute and of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects and a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He was also a Burgess of the Burgh of Aberdeen, past president of Probus, Aberdeen and involved in Rotary in Aberdeen, Dundee and Dunfermline. His other interests included bowling, curling, sailing, the Doric and Burns. He captained a Rotary curling team on a trip to play in Canada and campaigned for a new rink in Aberdeen, built his own sailing dinghies, was passionate about north-east Scotland and the Elphinstone Institute and was a Burns aficionado, delivering countless Immortal Memories and becoming well known as an after-dinner speaker. Twice a Member of the RN&UC when he rejoined some 7 years ago he was a regular at the Monday "Mighty Mouse" lunches and he was very amused at the way the Group made decisions about golf events and the like. He said *"you make a decision in a few minutes and then spend the next few weeks discussing it!"*

Respected for his complete integrity and honesty, he was also a man with a keen sense of right and wrong who, having come from a poor background, always championed the disadvantaged, actively supporting a great number of charities from Christian and Water Aid to the RNLI and Amnesty International.

Devoted to his family and immensely proud of their achievements, he was widowed in 2003 and is survived by his children Jennifer, Allison, Brian and Peter, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

(Acknowledgement to Alison Shaw, *The Scotsman*)

Rev Andrew Jolly

14 April 1956 – 28 September 2010

Andrew Jolly was born in Aberdeen, where his late father was a minister, but spent much of his childhood in Glasgow after his father was called to a charge in the east end. He found his own calling and went on to become a prize-winning preacher, Army and RAF chaplain, parish minister and, finally, chaplain to the offshore oil industry where his ministry, in the wake of several tragedies, saw him made an MBE, attending his investiture only two months before his death.

As a schoolboy he enjoyed playing tennis and bassoon and performing in the Glasgow Schools Orchestra. He was a talented participant in all his endeavours and won the Downhill Preaching Prize; completed a full graduating drama course; sang in Trinity College Choir and co-edited the Presbytery of Glasgow's newspaper, *The Bush*.

Following a number of ministry charges he enrolled to be trained at Sandhurst, spending five years as an army chaplain, serving in Northern Ireland, the Falkland Islands and Canada. From 1989 until 1996, he was a parish minister at Fern, Careston, Menmuir, linked with Oathlaw, Tannadice in Angus, continuing to serve with the Territorial Army as a chaplain. He also served the wider church and community as a member of World Mission and Unity, was involved in selecting ministers and on several presbytery committees as well chairman of Tayside Children's Panel.

Commissioned in 1996 in the Royal Air Force, he was chaplain at Mount Pleasant Airfield in the Falkland Islands and then at RAF Bruggen (bomber squadrons) in Germany from 1997-2000. While there, he was assigned as the chaplain to British personnel in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Fox. He was also awarded the Chief Scout's commendation for his work with the movement in Germany. Returning to the UK, he was posted as chaplain to RAF Halton in Buckinghamshire, where he was involved in initial recruit training and took great delight in running the camp's cinema, choosing and splicing together films.



A spell as chaplain at RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus followed before returning to RAF Uxbridge in London, where he was responsible for St George's RAF Battle of Britain Chapel of Remembrance, Biggin Hill. In 2005, he was posted to Iraq, serving in Basra and Baghdad. He was also appointed clerk to the Presbytery of England, the first military chaplain to hold the post.

Accustomed to providing care in tough environments, his role as chaplain to the UK oil and gas industry began in 2006. He was passionately committed to the unique ministry and threw himself energetically into a heavy schedule of offshore visits. He was soon adopted as one of the crew, a regular "bear", championing their secular and pastoral needs. His direct manner and willing, can-do approach ensured his popularity across the industry, whether officiating at marriages, attending functions or just enjoying a cigarette with a roustabout in the tea shack. Onshore, he took a church service most Sundays as a visiting preacher. A meticulous route planner, wherever he travelled, he included as many pastoral calls as possible in his itinerary, always willing to go where there was a need.

He provided chaplaincy support following the Morecambe Bay helicopter crash in December 2006 and conducted the memorial service in Lancaster Priory and the 20th anniversary services for the Piper Alpha disaster in 2008. Nine months later, he provided chaplaincy support and conducted the memorial service following the deaths of 17 men on April 1, 2009-16 in a Super Puma helicopter crash off Aberdeen and one in another offshore accident. He also provided pastoral support and spiritual care following many other tragedies.

He is survived by his wife, Chrissie, and their two daughters, Sarah and Alexandra.

Stan Cusiter 13 May 1952 – 22 July 2010

Well known Aberdeen lawyer and Club member Stan Cusiter died on the 22nd July 2010 after a long battle with cancer.

He went to school at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen, where he was a keen sportsman and played for the school's rugby and basketball teams. While a law student at Aberdeen University, and also in his early professional life, Stan continued to play for the Gordonians rugby side as well as representative rugby for the North and Midlands District team.

After graduating LLB in 1973, he served his apprenticeship with local legal firm W. Kirkwood & Smith, which was established in Dee Street in 1933. That firm amalgamated with Burnett & Reid at the end of 1979 and Stan served as a partner in Burnett & Reid for the next 30 years.

He married Ruth, in 1978, and had two sons. They lived in Kings Gate, Aberdeen.

Stan concentrated on private client work, from residential conveyancing to wills and executries, and developed an interest, and considerable expertise, in looking after the affairs of the elderly through curatorships and, latterly, continuing and welfare powers of attorney under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act.

Although a notable rugby player in his own right, he was the father of Scotland's rugby captain and British Lion, Chris Cusiter; while his other son Calum, plays for Edinburgh side Boroughmuir.

Stan was an enthusiastic member and supporter of the FRS Club, a lover of fine wine and food and crosswords. He joined the RNUC in 1997 and was a regular at 9 Albyn Place where he was a keen snooker player, winning the doubles on at least one occasion. He was a familiar face to many Club Members and his presence will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife Ruth and two sons Calum and Chris.

John E. G. Allison

27 June 1932 – 30 August 2010

John E.G. Allison was born in Aberdeen in 1932 and was a Member of the Royal Northern and University Club for over 52 years. He was the son and brother of the late Dr E.R. Allison and Dr T.P.G. Allison respectively who themselves were Members of the University Club and the RNUC for many years.

He was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School prior to going to Fettes College in Edinburgh in 1946. On leaving Fettes in 1951 after a successful academic and sporting school career, particularly on the athletic track and in the School Shooting VIII, John followed in the family tradition of studying medicine at Aberdeen University and playing golf at Royal Aberdeen. However he served his National Service with the Gordon Highlanders seeing active service in Cyprus from 1954 to 1956 and consequently on his return, he decided he really did not want to pursue a medical career.

He joined the paper maker Wiggins Teape based in Bucksburn and in 1958 married Ailsa nee Murdoch also from Aberdeen. In 1965 his career took him and the family (now three sons with a daughter on the way at last!!) to Sunderland in the North East and then to Cheshire in 1972 where he spent the rest of his career prior to retirement.

He was always happiest in the company of his family and so enjoyed seeing his own children and seven grandchildren and whilst he did not enjoy the best of health in his latter years, you would always be met with a warm smile, a firm handshake and usually an amusing story!

John died on 30 August 2010 and is survived by his wife Ailsa, his four children and his grandchildren.

RNUC Golfing Society



2010 was an active year involving some 40 members of the RNUC Golfing Society and attendances at our 7 Outings averaged 20. In addition we played 5 matches, away against The Caledonian Club and the New Club, and at home against Perth, Western Club and in the Inter Club Quaich.

We used the Club facilities as much as we could, which was appreciated by our guests. Our Champion Golfer this year was **Bruce Cochrane**, with an average of 37 Stableford points. This was a well deserved win for a stalwart of the Society since its inception: Bill Mitchell was the runner up followed by Gordon Henry, Forbes Shand and Charles Henderson.

We introduced a new Pairs Competition, Mair's Pairs. 34 players took part and the event was won by **Alex Wilson** and **Bill Budge** who beat **Andrew Harrow** and **Hamish Barrack** in an excellent Final at Banchory, in front of a crowd of 2, namely the Sponsor and Captain! Hopefully Mair's Pairs will be an annual feature for many years to come.

At the AGM and Dinner in October **Gordon Williamson** was elected Captain for the 2011 season with John Davidson as Vice Captain. Thanks are due to Gordon for his work as Vice Captain and to **Ron Esslemont** who is Secretary/Treasurer of the Society.

Charles Henderson, Captain 2010-11

I greatly appreciate the honour of being appointed Captain of the Golfing Society for 2010-12. Following after any of the previous hardworking Captains would be a challenge, but coming after Charles will be an almighty one! He was innovative, with the start of the season outing to Carnoustie and the instigation of the Mair's Pairs competition, inspirational and industrious. Never can there have been a better informed group of golfers.

While full details of our programme will be revealed at the pre-season dinner and AGM in the Club on Thursday 24th March, at 7.30pm we are once again we looking forward to a full season with home matches against the Western and New Clubs, and away matches against the Royal Perth Golfing Society and at the Inter Club Quaich matches, hosted this year by the Western Club. There will be outings to Kirriemuir, Ballater, Banchory and even Alford amongst others.

As always, we welcome members whatever their handicaps and even if they lack one, to join us. No one should feel intimidated or concerned that they might not be good enough to join in. You will be. Fellowship and fun is what brings most of us back time and time again and while it is great to win, it really is not the end of the world if we do not! **Gordon Williamson, Captain 2011-2012**



Golfing Society Programme 2011

AGM and Dinner

24 March Golfing Society AGM at 1930 sharp followed by Dinner.

RNUC Outings

- 27 April** Kirriemuir 1400 Tee off.
- 26 May** Duff House Royal 1409 Tee off.
- 23 June** Inverurie 1406 Tee off.
- 28 July** Fraserburgh 1400 Tee off.
- 25 August** Ballater 1407 Tee off.
- 31 August** Rosemount Fun game with Perth and Caledonian Club.
- 28 September** Banchory 1400 Tee off.
- 6 October** Alford 1300 Tee off followed by dinner back at RNUC.

RNUC Inter-Club Matches

- 4 & 5 May** **Four Clubs Match hosted by The Western Club**
Matches to be held at: Glasgow Gables and Glenberrie
- 13 July** **R.P.G.S v R.N.U.C. annual match**
Venue to be advised by Perth.
- 16 & 17 August** **RNUC v The Western Club**
Matches to be held at Newmacher and Inchmarlo.
Accommodation and dinner booked at RNUC.
- 15 & 16 September** **RNUC v New Club**
Matches to be held at Cruden Bay and Portlethen.
Accommodation and dinner booked at RNUC.



Peter Carry

Peter was born in Aberdeen, Scotland in 1952. A Partner in Jamieson & Carry, a family firm of jewellers originally established in Aberdeen in 1733 and in the Carry family since 1908, now offering fine jewellery, Swiss watches and other luxury gifts.

Peter is a Fellow of the Gemmological Association, Assessor to the Dean of Guild of the City of Aberdeen, Past President of The Rotary Club of Aberdeen, and an Elder in the Church of Scotland. Married to Jean; two boys and a girl; David, Angus and Malena. Interests include gardening, golf, swimming, curling

and life in general. Attended Aberdeen Grammar School, was in the Royal Artillery, and did Business Studies in Aberdeen. Trained for the jewellery industry in England and Switzerland.

Past involvement with excellent, local organisations that have contributed much to the well-being of the area: Scottish Enterprise Grampian, Aberdeen City Centre Association and others.

"I've enjoyed sport throughout my life and encouraged my children to try many sports. David (double Commonwealth Games champion) swam in the 2004 and 2008 Olympics, Angus (a partner in Jamieson & Carry) is a low-handicap golfer and Malena (University of Aberdeen) enjoys a wide variety of sports.

In the dim and distant past I skied (on snow and water) to national level and enjoyed Shotokan Karate for several years. My belief in my own immortality has taken a few knocks over the years, with various ski-ing and cycling accidents, each of which were life-changing experiences!"

Favourite saying "Once you're fully prepared and wondering if you will succeed, whether you think you can, or you think you can't, you're probably right."



John Rutherford LL.B (Hons) N.P

John is the UK Business Group Head for the Corporate, Employment and Pensions unit for national law firm McGrigors LLP. The firm is one of the UK's top 50 solicitors practices with offices in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Manchester as well as Aberdeen. McGrigors has around 100 partners and over 600 staff.

John was born in Edinburgh and brought up in Aberdeen from a young age. He attended Robert Gordon's College in the city before studying law at the University of Edinburgh. Thereafter he trained at Paull & Williamsons and specialised in corporate law before moving to Ledingham Chalmers where he was a partner for more than 17 years. In 2006 he joined McGrigors to help establish its successful Aberdeen office and now serves on the firm's management board, as well as continuing to look after a number of key clients. He has particular expertise in the oil and gas service sector and has acted in a number of high profile corporate acquisitions and disposals.

He has been married to Sue for more than 28 years and they have 2 daughters and 1 son aged 26, 24 and 20. He lives in Aberdeen, is a member of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club and enjoys running, music and current affairs.

Bharat K. Sheth

Bharat K Sheth is Deputy Chairman & Managing Director of The Great Eastern Shipping Company Limited, India's premier shipping company.

Born on January 18, 1958 in India's first family of shipping entrepreneurs, Bharat Sheth formally joined the industry in 1981, just after obtaining his Bachelor of Science (Economics) with honours from St Andrews University, Scotland. In the initial years of his career he worked in The Great Eastern Shipping Company gaining hands on experience of the business aspects of shipping. He worked closely with his colleagues in the chartering and Sale & Purchase departments, the

most intricate part of the shipping business. He was inducted onto the Company's Boards as an Executive Director on 1 July, 1989 and became Managing Director of the company on 1 April, 1999. On 12 August 2005, he was appointed Deputy Chairman & Managing Director.

He holds directorship in The Great Eastern London and Greatship (India) Ltd., wholly owned subsidiaries of the Company.

He was inducted on the Board of Directors of North of England P&I Association Ltd on October 11, 2005 and on the Board of Steamship Mutual Association (Bermuda) Limited on 3 February, 2006.

On 17 May 2007, Bharat Sheth was appointed Director on the board of SeaChange Maritime. He is also on the board of Indian National Shipowners Association and International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited.

Through his business insight and incomparable ability of timing the markets, the Company has grown manifold and today is one of the renowned shipping Companies. A firm believer in globalization, Bharat Sheth affirms that a company does not become global simply by expanding its geographic presence. The objective of globalization is to become globally competitive, extract the most out of global opportunities and imbibe the capabilities to face global challenges. He has been able to change the revenue mix of the Company. From being fully India centric 5 years ago, the Company has now just 30- 35% of its revenue generating from Indian operations.



Ravi K. Sheth

Ravi K. Sheth is an Executive Director of The Great Eastern Shipping Co Ltd (GESCO) and the Managing Director of Greatship (India) Limited (GIL), an offshore oilfield service provider.

GESCO is India's largest private sector shipping company and completed its 60th anniversary in 2007. It is a family business with Ravi, and his brother, Bharat, running the company as third generation family members.

GIL, a wholly owned subsidiary of GESCO, is one of India's leading offshore oilfield service providers with assets comprising oil rigs and various types of offshore support vessels (OSV). The oil rigs are deployed off the West Coast of India and the Greatship OSV fleet is deployed in various regions the world over. The Company has just established its Subsea division in Perth, Australia.

Born on 2nd April 1961, Ravi formally joined the company in 1989, after completing his Master of Business Administration from Babson College, Wellesley, USA.

Ravi and his wife Amita, have two sons, Rahul and Arjun aged 19 and 18 years respectively. Rahul is currently pursuing his undergraduate studies at Warwick University and Arjun is studying business management in Mumbai. Ravi plays squash and regularly participates in running the Half Marathons in Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai.



Malcolm Rust

Malcolm was born in Aberdeen in 1967. Fourth child to James and Muriel Rust, his late father having been a member of the RNUC, Malcolm was educated at Robert Gordon's College. After leaving school in 1985, he undertook a history degree at St Andrews University, graduating MA (Honours) in 1989. He then began his association with the law embarking on a two year law degree at Edinburgh University, graduating LLB in 1991. Malcolm returned home to Aberdeen to complete the Diploma in Legal Practice at the University, where he met his wife Gill, also a lawyer.

He joined Shepherd and Wedderburn as a trainee solicitor in 1992. Malcolm's career at Shepherd and Wedderburn has seen him specialise in private client, tax and charity law, being assumed as a partner in 2000. He has developed his existing connections in the city and he regularly visits Aberdeen on business.

He lives in Edinburgh with his wife and their three children, Rosie (12), Eilidh (10) and Matthew (5), all pupils at the Erskine Stewart's Melville schools.

Malcolm enjoys running, having completed various 10k and half-marathons. He likes cooking and entertaining generally and is an enthusiastic supporter of the respective Scotland rugby, and English Test cricket, teams. He plays very average golf and is a member of the Merchant Company of Edinburgh and the Society of High Constables of Edinburgh.



Alexander W. Law

Born and bred in Aberdeen, Sandy left school at 15 and joined the family fish processing firm where he stayed for 34 years before starting his own business. During this time he served on the board of the Aberdeen Fish Merchants Association and for 16 years was Chairman. He also held directorships in the Scottish Fish Merchants Federation and United Fish Products. He owns the country pub and restaurant The Lairhillcock Inn is run by his son and daughter, which allows him to be semi-retired.



Dennis Overton

Dennis was born in Dunbartonshire in 1959 and schooled at Jordanhill College School. Before reading Agricultural Economics at Aberdeen University he spent time working in the Falkland Islands and Patagonia. His working life has been based in the Highlands, establishing an agricultural marketing business in 1985, before moving into the newly emerging world of Highlands and Islands aquaculture in 1988 as co-founder of Aquascot. Today Aquascot is a sustainable seafood business proving a wide range of ready to cook and ready to eat products, employing 130 people. Other business interests include non-executive roles in

a Rwanda essential plant oils business and a West Highland estate.

In 2008 Dennis was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society, he is a founder board member of Scotland Food and Drink and Scottish Trustee of the Soil Association, which campaigns for sustainable forms of food and farming. He is an alumnus of London Business School.

Dennis lives in Strathpeffer, Ross-shire with his wife Julia, enjoying in their spare time cycling, fishing, kayaking and roaming the Highland hills.

