

THE ANCHORIANS ASSOCIATION



1926

THE ANCHOR

(Newsletter of The Anchorians Association)

**Rugby
Men's Hockey
Ladies' Hockey
Football
Table Tennis**

Issue 21

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J D Jezzard D W Howard MA

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Anchorians Football Club

Chairman: L Willis
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Anchorians Athletic Football Club

Chairman: D Hoffman

Anchorians Table Tennis Club

S McMillan
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Membership & subscriptions

Ordinary Membership of the Anchorians Association is open to all former members of the Howard School, Rainham and Gillingham Grammar School. Sports and Social membership is open to all. Honorary Membership is granted to the staff of The Howard School. Applications forms are available from the Hon Secretary or from the Club Steward, Paul Reilly.

- Life Subscription **£150.00**
- For all categories of membership (ex-Honorary and Family) **£10**
- Honorary Membership **FREE**
- Family Membership **£10**
- Day Membership **£1**

NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The past year has seen some considerable changes, since I and the new Committee were elected. The most visible change has been the transformation of the small bar into 'The Phillips Lounge' (picture below), named in memory of the Association's former Secretary, Les Phillips, who held the position for 40 years and who, after his passing, bestowed a significant sum of money to the Association, which contributed towards meeting the cost of the bar's refurbishment.

'The Phillips Lounge' was opened formally in April by the Association's President and Head Master of The Howard School, the Hon. Paul Morris. Also, present was the Association's former President and Head Master of Gillingham Grammar School and the first Head Master of The Howard School, John Hicks. It was a delight to see him looking so fit and spritely at 86 years old.

The new bar, the appointment of a (near!) full-time steward, Paul Reilly, and the negotiation of a new contract with Heineken UK, providing members with a wider range of beers, has given the Club a new impetus. The bar is used far more frequently, including for lunches and is becoming ever more profitable. This will ensure that the Association is able to invest in further improvements to the Clubhouse for the benefit of all members.



The Phillips Lounge

I would like, on behalf of the Committee, to thank Gillingham Anchorians RFC for their donation of a flat screen television, which has been installed in 'The Phillips Lounge'. Having two screens will allow everybody to watch live matches, wherever they may be sitting or standing.

The Committee is also in discussion with Medway Council's Licensing Department to change the terms of the Club's alcohol licence from a 'Club Premises' licence to the more straightforward 'Premises' licence. This will provide us with greater flexibility, for

example, in determining our opening hours and imposes on the Association far less bureaucracy. More generally, we have issued training packs to all bar staff, to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities when selling alcoholic drinks and to ensure that the Association remains compliant with the provisions of its license and of the Licensing Act.



The Phillips Lounge and refurbished bar area

The main hall has also been redecorated and we have installed new storage cupboards; we hope soon to be able to replace the flooring and to make the bar area as pleasant as that in ‘The Phillips Lounge’. We will also be looking to replace all of the team photographs, which were taken down whilst the hall was being redecorated. Looking further to the future, we should also like to refurbish the kitchen and equip it with commercial/professional appliances.

Your Committee has also overseen a considerable amount of ‘behind the scenes’ work:

- Entered into a contract with Rentokil and have deep-cleaned the men’s changing rooms and safety tested the club house’s water management system.
- Refurbished and relined the water tank – an expensive, yet absolutely necessary piece of work.
- Carried out a full health and safety audit.
- Ensured full compliance with our alcohol licence, including providing training to bar staff.
- Undertaken electrical works to ensure that all sockets, etc. are safe to use.
- Cleared the overgrown vegetation surrounding the club house, ensuring a safer and better lit environment.

There remains much work still to do, which, if the present Committee is re-elected, we will endeavour to carry out, subject to affordability. In the medium- to long-term, we hope to be able to embark on an exciting project to ensure the Association’s future. We

wish to lease more land from the Council and extend the Clubhouse to include a sports hall, new changing rooms and a fit-for-purpose committee room. A key priority will be to make the new facilities appropriate for disabled sport. This will take time and effort to achieve and we will need the support of our affiliated sports clubs to secure funding, for example from each club's respective national bodies (the RFU, FA, England Hockey Board, etc).

As many of you will know, the Anchorians Association was created originally as a means for former pupils of the old Gillingham Grammar School to keep in touch. The 'Old Anchorians' became an open club, when we moved from the original club house in Featherby Road to Darland Avenue in 1984. Since that time, the Association's links to The Howard School (which was formed by the merger in 1975 of the Grammar School and Rainham Boys' School) have weakened. Like any club, if we are to secure its long-term future, it is vital that we attract new members. So I hope to re-establish stronger links with the school, making sure that both staff and pupils are aware of Anchorians, that it is *their* club and that, when the time comes for them to leave school, they know there is a place where they can keep in touch with old friends and make new ones.

As I said when I was elected as Chairman in January 2011, the Association is *your* Association. We are *all* Anchorians. As such, our viability and success depends crucially on all members and affiliated sports clubs using the facilities we offer, taking pride in them and working together to the Association's and our mutual benefit. Some of this work will take time to complete, not least because members of the Committee, like their counterparts on the Committees of our affiliated sports clubs are volunteers and have to fit in the work of the Association around family and work commitments. But many people do a lot of work, much of it unseen, without which, we would have no Association and no club house.

Finally, I should like to thank my fellow Committee members for their hard work during the year. And I could not sign off without extending on behalf of the entire membership my sincere thanks to John Jezzard and Dennis Howard for their many years of faithful service to the Association. Fortunately – and as those of you who visit the club on a Monday or Wednesday evening will know - both John and Dennis still keep their eye in, by helping behind the bar.

Here's to a successful 2012, especially to all of our sports teams.

Yours sincerely,

NIGEL FRAY
Chairman, The Anchorians Association

State of the Association

Membership totals:	2011	2010
Life members	306	(312)
Annual members	468	(515)
Staff & Honorary members	108	(108)
Family members	160	(172)
Junior U16 Sports members	20	(24)
TOTAL	1,064	(1,131)

A drop in all Sections which is much regretted. Subscriptions from playing members are a matter of concern and I would remind all Sports Sections that their playing members are committed to pay an Association sub not only when they are fit but also injured and are using the Clubhouse. This applies equally to non-playing members. All members of the Howard School Staff, as Honorary Members, are also invited to use the Clubhouse facilities.

Members of various organisations who use the Clubhouse facilities are also thanked for their support.

Graeme Pike
Hon. Treasurer

Hire of clubhouse facilities

The Main Hall, Phillips Lounge (weekdays only and some evenings during the closed season, by agreement of the Executive Committee), Kitchen and Committee Room are available for hire (subject to the Conditions of Hire, as set out under the Constitution) for events in accordance with the Constitution of the Association and the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 under which the Association operates.

The facilities may also be hired by non-members of the Association and non-affiliated clubs upon the taking up of membership and payment of the annual subscription at the time of booking (£10 per individual, which also affords membership to that individual's immediate family, i.e. spouse or partner and up to two children, 16 years old and under).

HIRE OF MAIN HALL

- £25 per hour (Fri, Sat & Sun) or £15 per hour (Mon-Thurs); or
- £100 for the evening (18.00hrs – 23.59hrs Friday to Sunday or otherwise by agreement) or £80 for the evening (Monday to Thursday);
- Block booking of all facilities (i.e. > 5 evenings) attracts a 20 per cent discount; and

- £50 returnable deposit (in whole or in part, depending on cleanliness that facilities are left in at the end of the hire period).

HIRE OF KITCHEN

- £20 for the duration of the event (but see also provisions of £50 deposit, above).

THE PHILLIPS LOUNGE (subject to agreement by the Executive Committee)

- £20 per hour or
- £50 per half day (3 hours)
- £50 returnable deposit (in whole or in part, depending on cleanliness that facilities are left in at the end of the hire period).

COMMITTEE ROOM

- £15 for evening.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO APRIL 2011

The Club made a net loss for the year of £1,067. The true loss is £4,038 as several credit balances from previous years were written off. Capital Expenditure for the year was £16,730 - part of the ongoing and necessary maintenance and improvements of the clubhouse and keeping up with the current Health and Safety measures.

Bank balances are down £18,366 due to the losses and capital expenditure.

The Club has employed a full time steward and the effects of this will be noticed in the following year. I believe bar profits have increased but ongoing improvements will put us in the position of having to watch our expenditure in the year 2012.

Other money raising methods must be introduced or improved. The 200 club is short of members and could easily be increased with a determined effort.

I must admit to not being in control of expenditure which is not always a bad thing as I would not spend anything if I had my way! However, I do feel in 2012 that I must be authorised to prevent unnecessary expenditure to maintain the reserves I believe we need to have.

Graeme Pike
Hon. Treasurer

Consolidated Income & Expenditure Account for Year ended 30 April 2011

ITEM	2010		2011	
	£	£	£	£
Bar turnover		49915		46534
Cost of sales	23572		26800	
Wages	4038		8155	
Bar depreciation	593		2266	
Other costs	0		0	
		-28203		-37221
Bar Profit		21712		9313
Other income				
Subscriptions	3693		2873	
Gillingham Anchorians RFC	1112		1112	
Gillingham Anchorians HC	1500		1500	
Lettings & Hall hire	7594		6520	
Capital grants credited to income	1160		1160	
Donations & colours	80		250	
Interest received	18		3	
200 Club surplus, incl. old adjustments	-73		1811	
Other income	6		0	
		15090		15193
		36802		24506
Expenditure				
Depreciation of leasehold building	2919		2919	
Depreciation of fixtures & equipment	2636		1314	
Maintenance and repairs	7456		4501	
Cleaning	5328		4860	
Electricity & Gas	5004		2317	
Rent, Rates and Water	905		725	
Insurance	2412		1966	
Association expenditure	0		115	
Other expenses	3715		6856	
		-30375		25573
Surplus of Income over Expenditure		6427		-1067
Balance brought forward		99992		106419
Balance carried forward		106419		105352

GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Playing season 2010/2011

The 2010/11 season was a successful one for the Club. Competition for selection to the 1st XV had increased markedly and this contributed to the 1st XV finishing the league season in third position in Kent 1, their highest standing for a long time. Ashford and Sheppey had led the way but, even in those tough fixtures, the 1st XV put up strong performances. A real highlight was how complimentary the Ashford coach, players and supporters were of our performance down at their ground. Losses can still bring huge positives and to hear their players stating, "that was the toughest game we've had and if you play like that next season you should go up!" was very satisfying.



Gillingham Anchorians RFC 1st XV 2010-11

With around 40 players having represented the 1st XV over the year, the team developed a good balance of youth and experience. Adam Davison again captained the team really well, putting in some great performances. The contributions of two of the Club's more senior players, Andy Pritchard and Gareth Knight, were outstanding and the Club was delighted to award Andy the 'Player of the Year'. Prop is often a position where players don't have a huge amount of glory or stand out particularly, but this certainly wasn't the case with him; with Andy always giving nothing less than 100%, a huge work rate, as well as being able to play on both sides of the scrum.

Chris Everest also thoroughly deserved his award as 'Most Improved Player' and was closely followed by Kenton Parbutt, both of them having forged a really good partnership in the centre. A number of new players have joined the club during the season, with all having made significant contributions. Phil Scott led by example at hooker, Simon Stanton added bulk and experience to the front row, Steve Franks has controlled games superbly at 10 and Mark 'Asbo' Barfoot showed determination and strong running on the wing. A late 'newcomer' was Tom Lord who has been outstanding and it was with ease

that he took the captaincy against Southwark Lancers RFC; a 'do as I do' type of player. As ever, with such a physical game the club sustained many losses due to injuries, with Brett Little, in particular, suffering a pretty horrific leg injury.

The 2nd XV, captained by Mark Dishman, had a tougher season, but had registered some significant victories against strong opposition; in particular, the away win against Sevenoaks RFC inflicting on them their first loss at home for over two years..... and with five Anchs' players being yellow carded, with three in the 'sin bin' at the same time!!

The 3rd XV had had its most successful season for some years, thanks to the efforts of their captain, Alan 'Tits' Blyth. The 3s had been bolstered by players from Old Williamsonians RFC and the 'coming of age' of the youth players, which was a testament to the efforts of Gary Dixon in nurturing them through the youth system over recent years.



2nd and 3rd XV players, 2010-11

The Club's Head Coach, Alex Browne, was supported during the season by Adam 'George' Webb and Dean Langley and they should all be congratulated for the way that they have developed the players of all three teams. The whole club is in a more positive and happy position, with a good spirit in the Club and all three teams playing more structured and exciting rugby and is well on the way to building a squad that stands as good a chance as any for promotion come the end of the 2011-12 season.



‘Snow Rugby, 2010’ – The traditional Boxing Day match, played in memory of Andrew Ferguson

Off the field, the club continues to benefit from having attracted financial sponsorship, in particular from The Rochester Bar. The Club is most grateful to all of its sponsors for their support.

Nigel Fray
Secretary, Gillingham Anchorians RFC

GILLINGHAM ANCHORIANS HOCKEY CLUB

Review of the Men’s Section

We had hoped that last season had seen the worst of injuries and unavailability but 2010/11 was to prove another difficult and challenging season with results disappointing and most teams finishing at the wrong end of the tables. Through the huge efforts of the captains and the willingness of everyone to help out where they could, we managed to fulfil every league fixture, a tremendous achievement in the circumstances.

The Men’s 1st XI had a much more youthful look to it under the new captaincy of Glen Rawson. A number of senior players had departed and the season was very much one of rebuilding and finding the right combinations and formula to become successful. This lack of experience was most obvious in not being able to close out games when in the ascendancy and our inability to convert drawn games into victories. Whilst the team put together a spirited recovery after Christmas, it was not enough to prevent finishing in a lowly league position. The games lost were invariably only by the odd goal and if you look at goal difference as a yardstick, our record was more in keeping with a top 4 side. On such fine margins seasons can hinge.

Pride of place in the Men's section again goes to the 2nd XI skippered by that club stalwart Richard Brewer. He managed to create a real blend of experience and youth which saw the team vying for a top two finish for much of the season. Results towards the end fell away due to a combination of unavailability and call ups to the 1st XI.

Mike Metcalfe endured a torrid baptism in his first season as 3rd XI captain. There was very little continuity with the loss of a number of key players from the previous season. It was an incredibly difficult and ultimately unrewarding campaign but I would like to thank the team for sticking with it.

This was always going to be a very tough season for the 4th XI so I'm glad Bruce Bendle remained at the helm to steer the team through some very difficult times. The loss of players higher up the sides meant that Bruce enjoyed little by way of selecting a settled team each week. There were some heavy losses but heads never dropped.

The problems encountered by the 3rd and 4th XI were equally mirrored in the 5th XI, captained again by the ever enthusiastic and positive Mark Hamer. The team performed admirably on limited resources and a number of heavy losses should not disguise the commitment and character shown by the side - Mark received great.

The legend that is still Ian May led the 6th XI to another highly commendable league finish. Ian not only saw teams occasionally failing to take the field for fear of what awaited them but also saw 2 teams drop out of the league for reasons unknown. Ian was more than admirably supported by Nigel McDonald and provided a great base to give a number of youngsters the opportunity to play Saturday league hockey and begin moving up the teams.

Along with Ian and Nigel - Bruce, Mark and especially Keith Hopkins have been instrumental in running the junior section. With Bruce's hard work, we are progressing with our Clubs 1st accreditation which will hopefully see the junior hockey go from strength to strength. I will mention it again but the fact the captains have managed to juggle resources to fulfil every league fixture this season is nothing short of remarkable.

Review of the Ladies' Section

The 1st XI endured another very difficult season as retirements, injuries and unavailability took a real toll. They were fortunate to have Heidi Hadfield as captain and she helped guide the team to a league finish just above the relegation places.

Helen Goddard took on the role of 2nd XI captain and guided the team to league safety. Players from last season had been promoted to the 1st XI to fill the voids there but Helen was still able to rely on a wealth of experience. The real bonus this season has been the improvements made by the young players.

Nina Dhindsa's 3rd XI maintained the same impressive levels in terms of their performance and ambition. They are now a well established team in their league and no

opposition looks forward to playing them as they know what a tough time they are in for. There has been a real sense of continuity this season through a number of established performers who provide the backbone of the team.

Trevor Shave
Chairman, Gillingham Anchorians Hockey Club

ANCHORIANS FOOTBALL CLUB

Anchorians Youth Team Football - End of season report for 2010/2011

Since last year's AGM, the football club has had another pivotal year in terms of growth and development, with the club final achieving its FA Charter Standard award. The girls' side of the club went from strength to strength, as we increased our Angels teams from 4 to 6. Unfortunately we were unable to raise an U8s boys' team for the season, but we're hoping to get this in place for season 2011-12. To help this process, the club launched a Saturday Soccer School for 5-10 year old girls & boys in February. Initially the take up was quite slow, however within in a month we regularly had 30-40 participants each week. The club embarked on a school link programme with St Margaret's Junior School in Rainham. This proved to be a great success and set the foundation for future school links.

As for the remainder of season, 2010-11 most notable standout achievements were our U16 boys' team winning the Div 2 title, which was a great result & turnaround for a team that had struggled over the previous few seasons. 3 Angels teams reaching Kent Girls and Ladies Football league cup finals, unfortunately all our team lost in the finals; however it was a fantastic achievement for the club. Jade Fawcett & Evie Luckhurst was voted players of the season in their respective divisions, well done to both players.

Angels U10 Hearts, Our youngest team, who played up a year age group to be in this division, performed very well and finished joint 3rd with our other Under 10s team in their league. Reached the final of the Tina Marshall cup, where they narrowly lost in the final. Great achievement from all involved considering they were playing teams a year older than them.

Angels U10 Halos, Finished joint 3rd in their league, reached the league cup final, but were unfortunately up against a team that had not lost all season and therefore it was one challenge too far, but again a great achievement for a team in its 1st season. Jade Fawcett was voted player of the season for the U10s division.

Angels U12, Finished 7th in their Division, the team was awarded the Managers' & Supporters' "Team of the Year" award for this age group.



Anchorians U10s Angels

Angels U13, Finished 11th in their league, Evie Luckhurst was voted player of the season for the U13s division

Angels U14, Finished 4th in their Division, the team was awarded the Managers' & Supporters' & "Fairplay" award of the year for this age group.

Angels U16, Finished runners-up in the league and in the Tina Marshall cup final,

Anchorians Boys U14, Finished 7th in Division 1 and reached the semi-finals of the league cup.

Anchorians Boys U14 Athletic, Finished 11th in Division 3.



Anchorians Athletic Boys U14

Anchorians Boys U15, Finished 6th in Division 2 and reached the quarter finals of the John Leeds cup.

Anchorians Boys U16 , Won the Division 2 title, and reached the semi-finals of the league cup.

Anchorians Ladies 1st team, finished 3rd in the South East Counties Premiere Division, and reached the semi-finals of the league cup.

Anchorians Ladies 2nds, finished 7th in Division 1.

We said a fond farewell to Mark McAllister as Chairman after 5 years of service. Mark was made Honorary Vice-President of the football club, due to his dedication over the years, which we would like to thank him for. Leigh Willis was elected to succeed Mark as Club Chairman.

With regard to finances, the club invested in new lightweight aluminium goals, developed our coaches, by putting them through FA coaching courses and invested in new kits where needed. Leaving a closing balance of £2,353.46

The current season has started much the same as the previous season with development and growth at the heart of the club, as we increased our boy's teams to 5, with the introduction of the U12s. The Angels teams have increased further, to 9 teams, with the inclusion of an U8, U10 & U12 team, now making us one of, if not the biggest girls' club in the South East of England.

The school links programme has rolled out further and now includes, Rainham School for Girls, Fort Pitt Grammar School, St Margaret's Junior School and Fairview Junior School.

Leigh Willis was awarded the Kent FA Outstanding Contribution to Girls football award for 2011.

The football club, became the only club to be listed on the Medway Council Club mark scheme, and will be the clubmark school club link at next year's Medway Council-run Mini Youth Games & Futsal tournaments.

However, the biggest and most prestigious accolade was bestowed on the club when we achieved the FA Charter Standard Community Club Status in October 2011. The Charter Standard Scheme is a best practice guide that sets standards of coaching, administration and child protection for clubs working with young people. As a benchmark for quality, it will improve the playing experience for all. The community award is the highest achievable award within the Charter Standard Scheme, making the club the only club in the Medway Towns to achieve this accolade and only the 26th club in Kent. The football club would like to thank all its, players, supporters & volunteers, for helping us achieve this award.

Leigh Willis
Club Chairman

ANCHORIANS ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB

The year started with big changes, with the players who had comprised the bulk of the team for many years having all decided to retire in the first few weeks of the season, leaving us short of numbers and regular players. All the same, many thanks to the following players for their efforts over the years: Jack Evans, Carl White, Matt Taylor, Mark Hughes, Steve Klimcke and Gary Kerr.

We started with a raft of new young players, but as the season wore on, early Sunday mornings and late Saturday nights took their toll and numbers began to slide. Unfortunately the season was without much to note other than a very impressive 3-1 win over the eventual winners of the division, Walderslade FC; their only defeat of the season. It did show what could be achieved when everyone turns up and pulls together. Alas, this was only too rare and more games were lost than won.

Due to a lack of numbers there was no player of the year.

Detlef Hoffman

Chairman, Anchorians Athletic FC

ANCHORIANS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

A great season in terms of team/strength. We now have 6 teams competing in Medway TT League. Three teams in Division 1, one team in Division 2 and two teams in Division 3.

Our first team finished second in Division 1. Our second & third teams finished in 6th & 7th respectively. Our fourth team finished second from bottom in Division 2, something that wasn't helped by their top player, Nick Boden, being injured for the first half of the season. However, they escaped relegation and I'm sure will have a better season with a new stronger team. Our fifth & sixth teams finished 6th & 11th in Division 3. With a much improved team of players we are looking forward to a better season ahead.

We entered one team into the Sittingbourne Summer League, and had some good results finishing in a strong third place.



Currently our first team are in second place in Division 1 with high hopes for promotion to the top league. Our second and third teams are currently in 6th & 7th position. Our fourth team are currently in 4th place in Division 2, with a chance of promotion to Division 1. Our fifth and sixth teams are currently in 2nd & 3rd place in Division 3 and we are hoping that either one or both teams could gain promotion to Division 2.

Sean McMillan
Chairman, Anchorians TTC

NEWS OF 'OLD BOYS'AND GIRLS!

With Les Phillips's passing, we have lost the focal point for the receipt of letters and news from members of the Association. Keeping in touch with old friends provided the fundamental basis of why the Old Anchorians was formed and it is something that should endure. I would very much welcome any letters from you giving your news and that of your contemporaries (we have received one from Australia, below!) for inclusion in future newsletters. And don't forget that we have each year the Boxing Day reunion.

Please send your correspondence either by post to:

The Secretary,
The Anchorians Association
The Clubhouse
Darland Avenue
Gillingham
Kent ME7 3AN

Or by email to: NigelFray@aol.com

Eric Billingham (OA Hockey)

G'day from Down Under.

I really have lost contact with the Old Anchorians over the past few years, although I did contact the son of one of the masters of my day – Bill Willis. As far as I know, the son is still living in Sydney – only 550 miles from us here in Melbourne.

I am prompted to ask whether the name Bill Forrest rings any bells, He was with me during the forties at the old school and we lost contact when he joined the Fleet Air Arm, as it was then, and I joined the R.A.F. It would be good to re-establish an old friendship. I think Bill left in 1948 or 49 and I left in 1949.

Regards, Eric Billingham (voice_master@aapt.net.au)