

## Welcome to the Summer Edition of The Rag Newsletter

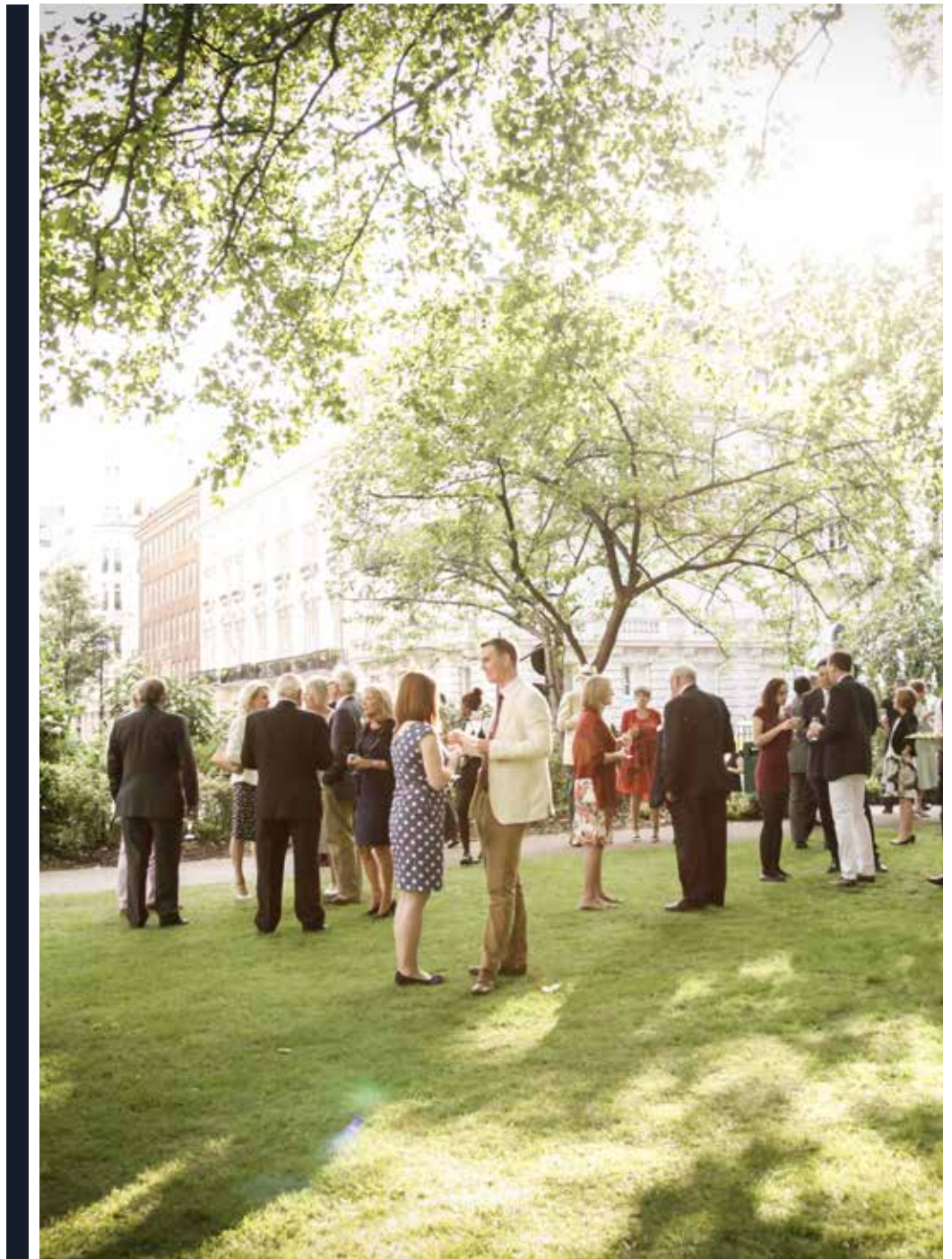
Summer is almost upon us, bringing the chance to enjoy longer, warmer days & appreciate the great outdoors.

With that in mind here's a round-up of the latest news from in and around the Club including the usual look at all the exciting upcoming talks and events along with a selection of fascinating and insightful interviews. This time we talk to Seyed Moosavi our Facilities Manager about recent improvement works, John Denton provides an update from the Membership Office and Stephen Simmons gives the low-down on one of our valued reciprocal clubs, The Penang Club, Malaysia.

There are also important announcements from the Chairman and Board as they prepare for the AGM in September and continue their plans to improve and evolve the Club.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

The Club is going digital, this will therefore be the last printed newsletter that will be sent to all members. See more details inside.



# AN UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



*Major General AP Grant Peterkin CB OBE*

Frank Froud, the Club Vice Chairman, and I wrote to all members by email in late March telling you that we would put out a further statement to bring you up to date with, amongst other issues, the latest trading and financial position, the plans for improved governance of The Rag, and the progress on the process to select a Chief Executive Officer to run the Club. This statement is coming to you by way of a Newsletter despite our saying earlier that we intended to stop the quarterly printed Newsletters and replace them with an email version. However, the contents of this statement are so important that we decided to send the message to all our members, including that small minority for whom we do not have an email address.

With the AGM confirmed for Wednesday 18 September 2019 at the Club, there is a lot to be done before then if we are going to achieve, with all your help and support, everything that we need to do to ensure a sustainable future for The Rag. Many of you might wonder why we had to move the AGM from July. The simple reason is that the task of rewriting the Club's Articles and Byelaws to reflect the lessons learnt from Bison, is a massive task. We had to allow time for these to be circulated for consultation with members, once the Board and Trustees had agreed them. In slipping the normal date of the AGM (in July) to allow time for proper consideration of the Articles, we went beyond the stipulated date for candidates to declare themselves, which was 31 March and we are working to 31 May 2019. We will need to ask the AGM to approve the delayed date by Special Resolution.

## **Board elections**

These are a necessary first step. As I wrote in the last Newsletter, under the current Articles there was a need for four new Full Military members to join the Board and four individuals were co-opted. They have served since September of last year and will be entitled to stand for election. There will in fact be five places on the Board to fill including one to replace a Director retiring after

three years' service. I would encourage both male and female members to apply and particularly those members with appropriate commercial management and professional skills. Applicants who feel that they can give the necessary time to fill posts on the Board, should forward a brief CV, a recent photograph, and a short description of the skills and experience they would bring to the Board. Please note that your nomination must be supported by a Proposer and a Seconder, both of whom must be Full Military Members or Full Members of the Club.

Under the present Articles, at least 75 per cent of Directors must be Full Military members. Both Military and non-Military members are free to apply but the percentage required must be obtained depending on the passage of the Articles. We will be recommending that the percentage of Directors required for the Board, excluding the Chairman, is changed from 75 per cent to 50 per cent. The Chairman will also be required to be a Full Military Member, as in the past.

## **Financial position**

The financial situation of The Rag remains a serious concern to the Board. This is reflected by the trading losses of the last two years, together with the Bison expenditure and the loss faced this year of £540k. The current financial position is:

2017	Trading loss, including Bison	£882,000
2018	Trading loss	£318,000
2019	Forecast trading loss in absence of remedial action	£540,000

Do not be blinded by the proceeds of the sale of the Queen Victoria Bust for £829,000 in 2018. The underlying situation is not good. This is despite a massive effort by all to bring the Club back to vibrancy. Such a deficit has had a significant impact on the Club's cash flow and on the money available for capital expenditure. That said, the Board have agreed with John Theophilus, the Chairman of the Finance Committee that there is no need for The Rag to take out a secured loan or to sell any shares in the Club's

investment portfolio, currently valued at £1.8m. However, the Board have agreed at a recent off site meeting, to address this deficit. We are going to tighten our belts and enhance the offering to members at the same time. We are looking at all areas of costs from changing suppliers of goods and services to everyday expenditure and the way the Club is operated on a daily basis. We are, however, at the end of the first Quarter operating slightly ahead of Budget. We will, as currently forecasted, end the year in a cash positive position but this also depends on further increased usage of the Club facilities by Members and their Guests.

### Changes to the Articles

These are another priority for the Board. As Judge Barker recommended in his Bison report, the current Articles are not fit for purpose and are in dire need of changing. In fact they represent a risk to the Club. Our aim is to maintain the military ethos of the Club, without neglecting the opportunity of recruiting suitable non-military members. The specially formed Governance Committee has done a substantial amount of work which is nearing completion. The main areas for change include:

1. Having Board Elections in future at the AGM, to include the election of a Chairman.
2. Changing the minimum percentage of Full Military membership of the remainder of the Board, i.e. excluding the Chairman from 75% to 50%.
3. Appointing a Chief Executive Officer to exercise all management functions in place of the present Club Secretary/Chief Operating Officer. Ayres de Souza, present Club Secretary and COO has been invited to apply for the position.
4. The position of the Trustees of the Club is to revert to being holders of the Club property or properties, as strongly favoured at the last AGM.
5. Strengthening the membership application procedure to additional powers and checks.
6. Limiting the number of Standing Committees to two (to be firstly Finance and Audit and secondly Membership). Other Committees would be appointed on an ad hoc and temporary basis, if and when required.

Details of these proposals will be shared with all members next month so that there is plenty of time to agree on the Special Resolutions required to be passed at the AGM, remembering that we need 40% of the members to vote and then 75% to support the Resolutions, something that we just failed to achieve at last year's AGM. If we fail to get this level of support in September then the ramifications for the Club are very considerable. We will make every effort to ensure that you have the ability to vote in person or by proxy. If nothing else, please ensure you vote and if possible support the changes necessary for the future of the Club.

### Selection of a CEO

The process to find a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to run the Club - this was another of Judge Barker's recommendations - is underway. The Board has sought the help of a specialist head-hunter in the hospitality field. A number of Directors and an external selector (an ex-MP) have so far interviewed eight candidates; the shortlist interviews will be held in mid-June with the hope that the first CEO will be able to attend the AGM in September. Ayres de Souza, the Club Secretary and Chief

Operating Officer (COO) for the previous five years, has, as mentioned earlier, been given the opportunity to apply for the CEO appointment. He has so far indicated that he does not wish to apply and is on long-term leave.

In the interim, and for a period of four months, the Board have hired Simon Oldham to act as a consultant reporting to the Vice Chairman and the heads of the Club Committees and advising us on how best to make changes and increase the revenue streams. Simon currently runs a successful private members club in Chelsea and has had a career in the hospitality business. He has already recommended a number of initiatives and changes to the Board and so the *Small Steps* in the Club are likely to continue.

Finally, I am grateful for those members who took the trouble to write to me to raise concerns or to thank the staff for a particular event. In particular, the Board, and indeed the staff, has been heartened by the support for the revision in the way that members contribute to the Staff Christmas Fund and more recently, the support for the revised Dress Code in the Club after the six month trial.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Since the last edition of the Newsletter we have had some extremely successful events including the special naval dinner in commemoration of the *Battle of Matapan*, an edifying tour of the London Coliseum and the Club's inaugural jazz night with Jeremy Sassoon and his band. Luckily we have plenty more entertainment coming up over the summer months, here is snapshot of what's coming up. Please note it is now possible to book all these events online via our website or by contacting the Events team directly at [events@therag.co.uk](mailto:events@therag.co.uk) or calling +44 (0)20 7827 8079.

## Cigar & Port Tasting Wednesday 29 May, 19.00

Join Malcolm Fuller, Food & Wine Committee representative, for an evening of cigar and port appreciation, sampling Fonseca Bin 27 Port and Partagas 8-9-8 cigars by Hunter & Frankau.

*Tickets: £20 includes port and a cigar.*



## Ham House & Garden Tour Friday 14 June, 11.00

Join us for an exclusive tour of Ham House, a unique 17th-century treasure trove situated on the banks of the Thames at Richmond, Surrey. Please note transport is not included.

*Tickets: £22 includes tour of the house and gardens.*



## Colonel's Review Parade & Lunch Saturday 1 June, 11.00

**SOLD OUT**

*If you would like to be placed on our waiting list for this event then please contact the Events Office on 020 7827 8079 or email [events@therag.co.uk](mailto:events@therag.co.uk)*



## Tri-Club Summer Drinks Reception with East India and the Naval & Military Club Thursday 6 June, 18.30

A chance to meet up and socialise in St James's Square gardens with Members from the Naval and Military and East India Clubs.

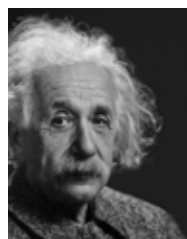
*Tickets: £40 includes reception at 18.30 with champagne, canapes & live music. £60 includes reception as above with buffet dinner & wine at the Club from 20.00*



## The Rag Quiz Night Thursday 20 June, 18.30

Join us for an entertaining evening of quizzing that will exercise the grey matter and awaken your inner Einstein. Gather your friends, family and colleagues to form a winning team.

*Tickets: £150 per team of up to six people, includes buffet dinner & quiz.*



## Club Cooking Demonstration Friday 5 July, 16.00

Come along to this unique culinary event where our Head Chef, Tibor Sárvári will demonstrate how to cook a specially prepared 3-course summer menu to a live audience. The demonstration will be followed by dinner in the Dining Room featuring the same summer menu.

*Tickets: £55 includes cooking demonstration, dinner & wine.*



## Trooping the Colour Buffet Lunch Saturday 8 June, 12.30

The Club's annual buffet lunch that follows the Queen's birthday celebrations and parade. Please note this event is lunch only without parade tickets.

*Tickets: £40 includes buffet lunch & wine.*





### Henley Royal Regatta Sunday 7 July, 10.00

An exclusive opportunity to enjoy finals day racing at the Henley Royal Regatta as guests of the Leander Club. Members will have access to a private table for the day within a VIP enclosure, along with a private tour hosted by the Club Director. Please note transport is not included.

*£225 per person to include welcome refreshments, private table for the day, private tour from the Club Director, chance to watch finals on the river, lunch on a private table in VIP area and afternoon tea.*

### Carol Concert at St James's Church Tuesday 3 December, 18.30

Carol Concert at St James's Church Piccadilly with the East India Club and Naval & Military Club.

*Tickets: £15 for carol concert only with mulled wine and mince pies.  
£40 to include carols, and also buffet dinner with wine.*



### Jazz at The Movies - Swinging Christmas Wednesday 4 December, 19.00

Get into the Christmas spirit with this festive jazz evening featuring acclaimed vocalist Joanna Eden and the Chris Ingham Quartet.

*Details TBC - to reserve a space please email [events@therag.co.uk](mailto:events@therag.co.uk)*



### Members Christmas Lunch Wednesday 11 December, 12.30

A chance to join fellow Members for the Club's annual festive lunch.

*Tickets: £55 includes drinks reception, three courses & wine.*



## RECENT EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Private tour of the London Coliseum



The Bonny Lunch Club



Jazz at the Rag with Jeremy Sassoon and his band

# A WORD FROM MR FIXIT

Much improvement work has been undertaken at the Club in recent months, we therefore decided to have a chat with Maintenance & Facilities Manager, Seyed Moosavi, to find out more about these projects and lift the lid on his time at the Club.



## *Interview with Maintenance & Facilities Manager, Seyed Moosavi*

### *What is a typical day like in your department?*

A typical day starts with the team checking the mechanical plants to make sure all the boilers, pumps and air-handling units are working fine, then onto a brief meeting with staff to look at the day's event and job allocation. Once this meeting is over, my staff will go around the building to do a bulb inspection, checking that all the lights in the public areas are working.

Each day a member of the maintenance staff will be appointed as shift technician to take emergency calls and administrate the department's workload as we have a docket system which all departments around the Club can send jobs to or make requests. Once the daily routine jobs are completed we are then free to carry on with our larger scale, ongoing projects.

### *What are your main responsibilities?*

As the Maintenance Manager I have a demanding job with big responsibilities for the entire club. I'm charged with routine maintenance and upkeep of the premises along with planning, designing and fulfilling larger projects and improvement and updating works. It is essential that I pay careful attention to project finances to ensure that all materials are purchased competitively and that the work is completed within budget.

In recent times Health & Safety has become an increasing part of my role, I regularly undertake staff training to ensure compliance with Health & Safety regulations and to familiarise departments with the latest requirements and practices.

### *Tell us about your current projects and improvement works?*

Over the past few months one of our primary focusses has been redecorating the sixth and seventh floor corridors, this work is now complete; members should be pleased with the results, there is new carpet and the colour scheme has been refreshed with calming pastel green tones - a great improvement on what was there before. We've also improved the lighting around the Club, installing LED fittings in many areas; this is probably most noticeable in the Business Centre, which is now much lighter and brighter. Plus the LED lights help reduce our electricity costs.

You'll be pleased to know that its not just members that benefit from our work, Staff areas have also improved with the Staff Canteen getting a new coat of paint along with upgraded heating and cooling systems. We've also restyled the Administrative offices on the ground floor which houses Events, Marketing and Finance with a reinvigorated colour scheme and improved layout.



***You've worked here for over 12 years, do you have a favourite moment?***

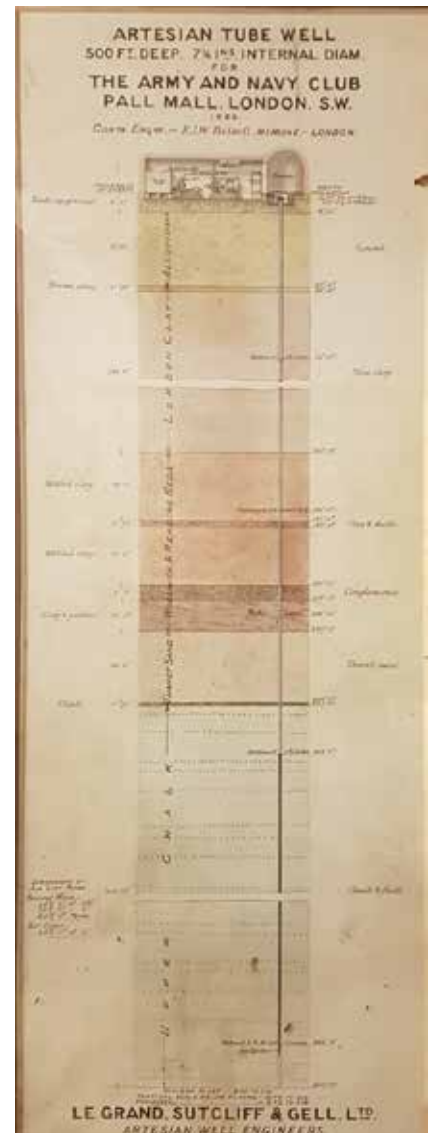
Well, it would have to be when the Queen came to visit the Club in October 2017 to commemorate 100 years of Women in Military Service. I was required to work closely with the Head of Palace Security to make sure all the necessary security and logistic planning for the visit was fulfilled correctly and comprehensively. On the day of the visit I was responsible for taking the Queen upstairs in the lift, it was a magical moment which I will never forget. Nothing was said during our quick ride to the 2nd floor but she did give me a lovely smile, which was reward enough.

***Tell us something about the building that not many members would know?***

One of the things that many members don't know is that we have our own Artesian well underneath the Club. It's over 500ft deep and up until 1994 was the Club's main water supply. Unfortunately, the water these days is not potable and therefore no longer in use, but remains an interesting feature and talking point nonetheless.

Another historical feature is Whisky Corner, which you can see evidence of in the Smoking Room where a plaque on the floor commemorates a spot where members of the original 19th-century Club gathered to drink whisky. The plaque was recently moved in 2017 from the old Smoking Room (now the Clive Room) to its current position next to the bar in the new Smoking Room.

One final interest point is the Facilities and Maintenance office itself, which is situated in the bowels of the Club, one floor deeper than the car park. Housed there are the Club's main generators which supply the building's electricity along with a traditional air-handling unit that draws air down from the roof and circulates it around all areas of the Club. Also there is a huge pumping unit with a Spaghetti Junction of pipework that ensures all the hot water is supplied to the bedrooms, kitchens and toilet facilities. On the operations side there are also a labyrinth of ante-rooms and workshops where the Maintenance team undertake repairs, construction and decorative projects that keep the Club in tip-top condition and running efficiently.



# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

*Assistant Membership Secretary John Denton*



It is my sad duty to report that my friend, mentor and colleague, Caroline Clarke, who as many of you will know has been an outstanding Membership Secretary, Senior Manager and Trustee of the Retirement Benefits Scheme for 21 years, has decided to resign following a long term illness.

For over two decades Caroline's work, sacrifices, and love for the Army & Navy Club transcended employment, and left a lasting impression on any who met her. It has been my privilege to work alongside her for so many years - we both shared the same feeling towards The Rag and its members. I missed Caroline when I left the Club, and I will miss her more now I'm back. My wife and I will always keep in contact with Caroline in any case, and will of course keep members updated on request.

On a slightly less gloomy note, I am pleased to report that membership numbers are steadily climbing, keeping both me and my colleague Tamzin extremely busy (mainly Tamzin – I remain extremely grateful to have such a competent colleague holding things together!). A good mix of serving and retired officers, along with leaders from the business community, are joining The Rag and I am sure everyone will join me in welcoming them wherever they are met. The new dress

code has now been ironed out – pardon the pun – and there has been an increased buzz of late in the Club, helped in no small part by the return of the superb Head Barman Paul Burgess (and also, I would hazard a guess, the exceptional bar prices!) Please do pop in for a drink the next time you're in town, and witness Paul's excellence first hand.

Travelling Members may also be pleased to note the addition of three new reciprocal Clubs – the Cardiff & County Club in Cardiff, the Hawks' Club in Cambridge, and the DO7 Eco Club in Milan. Information on these can be found on our website.

Finally, I would like to re-emphasize that if you know someone who you think would enjoy membership of The Rag, whether that be for the business facilities, dining experience, or affordable accommodation in the heart of London, please do send them my way. The application procedure is very straightforward, and Tamzin and I would be very happy to explain any details.

Please note there is an application form on the reverse of the carrier sheet for this mailing in the event you know of anyone interested in membership.

## CAROLINE CLARKE HONORARIUM

In order to pay fitting tribute and recognise the phenomenal dedication shown by Caroline Clarke during her time at the Club it has been decided to set up an Honorarium in her name.

Members wishing to contribute should send a cheque payable to the Club with the words CC Honorarium at the back. If you prefer to pay by credit card, please contact Reception on 020 7930 9721. Alternatively, please use the banking details below to pay by BACS using CC Honorarium as a reference:

Account Name: Army & Navy Club  
Bank: RBS  
Sort Code: 16-00-38  
Account Number: 00738058

We are hoping Caroline will be able to visit the Club later on in the year for a presentation, details TBC.







The lovely island of Penang was one of the earliest British settlements in the Far East, founded in 1786 by Captain Francis Light of the Honourable East India Company. The Sultan of Kedah had ceded the island to Light in exchange for 'John Company's' protection from Siamese and Burmese aggression and Province Wellesley, a long strip of coast on the Sultanate of Kedah, was added in 1791.

*By House Committee Chairman - Stephen Simmons*

The capital of Penang is George Town, a beautiful, historic town with a tremendous architectural heritage of late Georgian, Victorian and Art Deco buildings. Behind the town lies Penang Hill, accessed by the funicular railway completed in 1923, from where there are stunning views out over the Straits of Malacca towards Province Wellesley. The beaches of Batu Feringhi in the north of the island are lovely, if crowded, but it is George Town which is the real pull. The Penang Club was founded in 1868, but its forerunner was the Prince of Wales Island Club amongst whose original members was Stamford Raffles. Raffles subsequently went on to establish the settlement of Singapore which together with Malacca and Penang, was grouped into the colony of the Straits Settlements in 1826. Founded as a gentlemen's club, the Penang Club has become a more family-friendly Club over the years. The Clubhouse is a 1960s rebuild with all the consequent architectural challenges associated with that period (as we in The Rag know!) but it is well maintained, clean and serviceable. There is a warm, comfortable feel about the Club, the staff are welcoming and friendly and it is a tremendous place to base yourself for a week's exploration of George Town.

Unusually for these times, the Club retains a Men's Bar, which is on the ground floor of the building tucked away behind the reception. The mixed bar, the Dolphin Bar, is on the first floor next to which is the main dining room which has lovely views over the sea. Perhaps the best spot for lunch is the open veranda next to the pool and if you have children in tow, this is where you will be. The Asian food is first rate, particularly the Penang curries.

The club also has 2 squash courts, a swimming pool and an excellent, 11,000-book library.

The Club has seven, good-value accommodation rooms which are clean and comfortable and which have views out to sea. The Club is a twenty-five minute drive from Penang Airport, a five-minute walk from the E&O Hotel (both Somerset Maugham and Rudyard Kipling stayed there) and a couple of minutes by cab from the centre of town.



# CLUB NEWS

## GOING DIGITAL

As you may be aware, The Rag, along with many organisations in London and around the world, is under increasing pressure to reduce its carbon footprint. Production of the Club's newsletter, sent out by post to all members, is a major contributing factor to this impact.

We are therefore going digital, with this pressing of the quarterly newsletter being the last one that will automatically be sent to all members. Subsequent editions will be available in hard copy format by request only or can be collected in person at the Club. If you require a copy by post then please make a request to Laurence Denton at club@therag.co.uk or call 020 7827 8081.

If you do have an email address that is not registered with the Club and you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please do get in touch so we can update our records.



## FORGOTTEN ALLIES FILM

Following the success of last year's *Forgotten Allies* film fund dinner held at the Club, the producers of the film, Grammar Productions, would like to inform members who attended the event that there is the chance to see the finished film at the National Army Museum on 12 June.

Last year's fundraising dinner raised £20,000 towards the making of this remarkable film that highlights how, in the darkest hours of World War 2, thousands of men from Burma (now Myanmar) gave their lives fighting a brutal war for Britain against the Japanese.

Date: Wednesday 12 June 2019  
Time: 18:15  
Venue: National Army Museum



## OFF-SALE WINES NOW ONLINE

Since the Club's new website went live in January it has been possible for members to purchase all of the wines and champagne featured on our bar and restaurant menus online via the Club Shop.

On offer is an extensive collection of both European and New World wines, all carefully selected by the in-house food and wine committee in conjunction with *Master of the Cellar*, Tim Hartley. There are some excellent options ranging from the ever popular Club Claret at just £10, Mâcon Solutr  chardonnay at £14, superb sparkling wines from Berry Brothers, prosecco at £21 and Cr mant at £24 up to very tasty French whites at the £40 mark.

The online collection is completed with a curated selection of the Club's finest Champagne and Ports, offering something for every occasion. Please do take a look at [www.therag.co.uk](http://www.therag.co.uk) or contact Reception on 020 7827 8029.

## SNOOKER COMPETITION

Following on from the success of last year's London Clubs Singles Competition (The Hoffman Cup), the East India Club has announced that entries for the 2019 Competition are now open.

If you wish to enter please contact Claire Johnson at the East India Club via email [cjohnson@eastindiaclub.com](mailto:cjohnson@eastindiaclub.com) by 27 May. The draw will take place on 30 May 2019 with details of your first match emailed to you the following day.



## GYM CLOSED

We are sorry to report that the Club's gym facilities at Fitness Space are no longer available as the business has unexpectedly gone into administration. We are therefore currently unable to offer access to a gym but are working hard behind the scenes to find an alternative provider - more news soon.

## STAFF FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note from March 1 2019 a discretionary contribution to the Club Staff Fund has been levied on all room bookings, £5 per room (for one night) and £10 for two nights or more. Also 5% added to all food and drink in the bars and restaurants.

If you don't wish to make this contribution please do inform a member of staff and it will be removed from your bill.



## HAPPY HOUR

We have decided to replace Happy Hour in the bars with Cocktail Hour which will take place on the last Thursday of every month, starting on 30 May.

On offer will be an extensive selection of the very best Club cocktails expertly mixed by our in-house bar team.



## FREE TICKETS ART & ANTIQUES

Art & Antiques Fair  
19-28 June, Olympia London

We've managed to secure free tickets to enjoy London's longest-running art and antiques fair at Olympia, London. Visit the fair between 19-28 June to view an inspirational variety of furniture, art, sculpture and objects alongside jewellery, textiles, glass and ceramics. Plus, plenty of fascinating specialist talks.

To claim your free tickets please contact Helen James at [helen.james@clarionevents.com](mailto:helen.james@clarionevents.com) or call her 0207 384 8133. Alternatively pick up a ticket from the Club via the Marketing office.



## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

27 June at 19.00  
St James's Square

Come and enjoy a magical evening under the stars in St James's Square with Shakespeare in the Squares new production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare's wild play of love and magic, where the action is transplanted to 1920s Britain featuring moonlight, music, madness and circus.

For more information and to book tickets visit [www.shakespeareinthesquares.co.uk](http://www.shakespeareinthesquares.co.uk)

## THE RAG CHOIR

We are excited to announce that The Rag is starting a Club Choir this autumn, led by leading choral conductor Calum Fraser.

We caught up with Calum to hear more about the choir and what he loves about singing with others.



### *Tell us a little about yourself?*

I am a London-based conductor specialising in operatic and choral repertoire. I am the founding Artistic Director of Magnetic Opera, and was previously Musical Director of Winterbourne Opera and Opera'r Ddraig. I founded the Scottish professional chamber choir Caledonian Voices and I am currently the Musical Director of Streatham Choral and Farnham & Bourne Choral Society. I work at The University of Nottingham, where I am Director of Choirs, with whom I regularly travel to China and Malaysia.

### *What is your favourite thing about teaching choirs?*

Singing is something that brings all sorts of people together, and there is no hierarchy within a choir. As soon as the rehearsal starts, everyone in the group is focussed on making the music sound as good as possible, and therefore any stresses of the day are soon forgotten. This leads to a hugely positive atmosphere, where the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts.

### *What are your three favourite pieces of music?*

Mozart's *Requiem*, Puccini's *La bohème* and Mahler's 1st Symphony.

### *Do I need any experience in reading music or singing with choirs to join?*

Not at all. We will read from music in rehearsals, but I will always demonstrate vocal lines that you can repeat.

### *What kind of things will we be singing?*

Initially, it will be a real mixture until we see what is most popular with the singers. Music such as the following is likely to feature:

Bruckner - Locus Iste	Amazing Grace
Elgar - As Torrents in Summer	Blackbird
Gibbons - Drop, Drop Slow Tears	Goodnight Sweetheart
Tallis - If Ye Love Me	Songbird

The choir will start in September and meet weekly – please contact the Librarian Alice Crossland to register your interest so we can get an idea of numbers. Alice's email is [alice.crossland@armynavyclub.co.uk](mailto:alice.crossland@armynavyclub.co.uk) or you can call on 020 7849 8304

# WEDDINGS AT THE RAG

As we head towards summer we wanted to celebrate wedding season with a look at how our in-house Events team, Emily and Juliet, are able to help members plan a wedding or civil ceremony at The Rag.



Emily Moss

For members, holding a wedding at The Rag is the perfect option as you can rely on the in-house events and catering teams to look after your every need and requirement, right from the initial conversation through to the big day. Every step of the way there will always be a friendly and helpful member of staff available to help you, meaning that all the usual stresses associated with planning a wedding are taken care of by the hospitality teams you know and trust.



Juliet Branfield

The Club's three main function rooms (Pall Mall, Drawing Room and Library) are all licensed wedding venues, catering for small intimate ceremonies and receptions from 10 people, up to larger weddings for 120 people, with the option at weekends to have exclusive use of St James's Square gardens to add that extra wow factor.

Members can benefit from discounted wedding packages, making the rates extremely competitive compared to other London venues.

Our team can recommend trusted suppliers who we have close relationships with, from florists to cake makers to musicians and beyond. We provide extra touches at no expense, such as candles and silver on the tables and crested menu cards and place cards. Our Executive Head Chef, Tibor Sárvári and his expert team of chefs are also on hand to look after the catering and our hospitality team will be able to provide beautifully appointed en-suite bedrooms to accommodate you and your guests overnight.

We understand that flexibility is key, and that no two weddings are the same. If you would like more information about Weddings at The Rag please get in touch with our Events Team at [weddings@therag.co.uk](mailto:weddings@therag.co.uk) or call Emily or Juliet on +44 (0)20 7827 8079.



Library wedding



Pall Mall Room wedding