



## Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter

Issue XV, April 2019.

### Annual Reunion Dinner

The annual dinner, held at the Marriott in Glasgow on 15th March, was acknowledged by all to have been a great success. Good food, a good venue and excellent company topped off by an inspirational speech and toast to the school by Mr Jamie Allan Brown one of our younger former pupils who has already achieved so much in his short career. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr Lillious Purvis, who will celebrate, this May, her 90th birthday. Lillious grew up in the east end of Glasgow during WW2, attended Whitehill in the 1940's and went on to Glasgow University from where she graduated with an M.A. However after a short teaching career, she returned to university to study medicine. She had to work weekends and evenings to pay her way and had to fight her way through the "system" to finally succeed in her chosen field. Lillious gave a short acceptance speech, addressed to us all, but specifically fitting for the current pupils in attendance. Her message was to never give up, work hard and achieve your goals whatever they are and do the right thing.



**Dr Lillious Purvis with pupils**



**Jamie Allan Brown**



**Iain McLean**

The evening closed, with Robin Brunton passing on the president's badge to Iain McLean. Iain gave a short speech summarising his years at the school and his career in industry. He thanked Robin for his two years as president and finally gave the vote of thanks to the hotel staff and the committee.

### A Letter From Australia

In March we received an email from Irene Rutter (nee Gourlay) a former pupil now resident in New Zealand. Irene wished to order a golf umbrella to be sent to her cousin, Victor Hugo also an FP, and living near Sydney, Australia. It was Victor's 80th Birthday. We sent the golf umbrella and also an FP tie together with a copy of the menu card from the recent dinner.

Victor played rugby at school and for the FPs in the 1950's, together with Alan Wright, with whom he still plays golf, down under. He had a distinguished, and I suspect, an exciting career with the V Bomber squadron during the cold war years before settling in Australia.

We received his reply, reproduced below:

2 April, 2019

Mr. Iain Callander,  
Secretary, Whitehill FP Club,  
6a Corstorphine Road,  
Edinburgh EH1261N

Dear Iain,

I was delighted to receive your letter dated 19 March, 2019 and thrilled with your gift of the FP Tie. This will replace my 60 year old version.

I was very surprised when, out of the blue, a magnificent Golf Umbrella arrived on my doorstep. My Cousin Irene, who lives in New Zealand, had not mentioned anything to me. It looks so good that I think it will be quite some time before it goes into my golf bag. I don't play too often in the rain these days anyway.

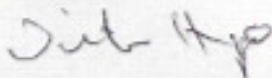
My last contact with the FP Club was just over 60 years ago. I played my last game for the FP 1<sup>st</sup> XV in March, 1959 and joined the Royal Airforce on April 1, 1959. I trained as a Navigator and spent in excess of seven years flying Canberras and the Vulcan Bombers as part of the V Force.

I was fortunate to be posted, as a Flying Instructor to the the Royal Airforce College Cranwell and later as Chief Navigation Instructor on exchange to the Royal Australian Air Force. My last posting, before I retired as a Squadron Leader in 1977, was as Editor of the RAF Manual of Flying.

The day after I retired we left for Sydney, Australia. My wife Margaret, nee Webster is also a Whitehill FP. It is a very small world as two other FPs are also in my group of friends and live fairly close by. Alan Wright, who was a year ahead of me, was Captain of the Rugby and Golf Teams, and his wife Jean Hall, who was in my year and was School Vice Captain.

Once again, thanks for your letter and gift.

Yours aye,



Victor Hugo



Victor and Margaret



Alan and Jean

## **Dates for your Diary**

We are planning to arrange a visit to the school on a Saturday in September. More information will follow. Probable date is Saturday 14th September. Visit will be limited to 20 people.

The Autumn Lunch will be held at the Marriott Hotel on Thursday 24th October, 2019.

Please encourage as many of your FP friends to attend to enjoy the day and have a chance to win the Star Prize in the Top Drawer Raffle.

## **Membership of Whitehill FP Club**

If you are in touch with other former pupils please ask them to email our secretary to be included in the emailing list, and to obtain details of events.

We are keen to attract members from the 1960's, 70's and 80's to join us. Why not make up a table of old friends for the Autumn Lunch.

<b>President:</b>	<b>Iain McLean</b>
<b>Past President:</b>	<b>Robin Brunton</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Iain Callander, 6a Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh EH12 6HN: <a href="mailto:secretary@whitehillfp.org">secretary@whitehillfp.org</a></b>
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