



St Catharine's College
Cambridge

Acheson-Gray Sports Day

23 April 2022

Programme

Main venue: *St Catharine's College Sports Ground, King's Road, off Barton Road*

Alumni Captain

Cricket	12 noon – all day	Sam Woods
Badminton	12 noon – 4 pm	Harvey Newiss
Men's Football	12 noon – 1:30 pm	Henry Hall
Ladies' Netball	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Sophia Padt
Mixed Hockey	1:30 pm – 2:40 pm	Sophia Padt and Matt Diesel
Rugby	2 pm – 3 pm	James Lamming
Tennis first round	2 pm – 3pm	Henry Hall

Afternoon Tea
(for sports participants) From 3pm in the Cricket Pavilion

Tennis second round	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Henry Hall
Mixed Netball	3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Anna Faulkner

Dinner
(prebooked only) The Olive Grove, 100 Regent Street
Arrive at 7 pm for a 7:30 pm meal

Followed by the presentation of the Acheson-Gray
Trophy, speeches, and the Jerusalem Hymn

The origins of the Day

About Acheson-Gray Day

An annual sports day has been a long-standing tradition within St Catharine's College for many years. From the Second World War onwards, a focus of the Catz sporting calendar was a cricket match in the Summer Term between alumni and current College students.

During the early 1990s, Charles Acheson-Gray (1991, Social & Political Sciences) was an avid sportsman at Catz. He was Captain of the College lawn tennis team and played for the University team. Following his graduation, Charles continued his enthusiasm for tennis and encouraged an equivalent tennis match to be included alongside the cricket match. This brought about the idea of expanding the annual event to a recognisable sports day.

However, the purpose of the event is now more poignant for the College and goes beyond sporting achievements. After struggling with depression, Charles very sadly passed away in 2001. This annual sports day is now named the Acheson-Gray Day and held as a tribute to his memory, providing an opportunity for our community to remember the importance of talking openly about the subject of mental health. Ultimately, participating in sports can nurture a sense of connectedness and community spirit, which in turn helps our sense of wellbeing.

In 2004, the President of the Society's London Branch, John Oakes (1961, English), encouraged the Acheson-Gray Day to host additional sports matches, including hockey, following the completion of the all-weather pitch that had been kindly donated by Peter Boizot (1950, History). Rugby was added in 2005. In the years that followed, the programme expanded to include the sports that feature today, such as football, hockey, tennis, rugby and netball.

Two Great Men

John Oakes (1961), Founder of Acheson-Gray Day, pays tribute to two of the “stoutest supporters” of the Day

“**Dr Philip Oliver** (1988), Emeritus Fellow of the College, and chief contender for the “Least-pompous Cambridge don” laurel, was always a good ally on the Governing Body if diplomacy were needed.

His good friend and colleague Professor Don Broom (1987) remembers: ‘Always ready to greet any visitors to St Catharine’s and a staunch touchline supporter of College sport, Phil Oliver was well-known and much loved by so many of us. If Philip knew someone, he found a way to help them. Poems read in honour of Philip in the College Chapel emphasised the fact that cricket is a serious thing and the value of a person who lifts rather than one who just leans on others.’

Another stalwart was Yorkshireman **Geoff Stokell** (1950), recruited to read English in 1950 from Hymer’s College, Hull, by the legendary Tom Henn. Geoff umpired cricket right from A-G’s inception until very recently, even when he had to be driven up from Wantage by his devoted companion Alison Brown. He died last year at the age of 91. He will be remembered for his flamboyant waistcoats, his love of cricket and rugby, and his constant good humour. Once you saw Geoff, you knew the Day was going to go well.

Neither were all his ideas flights of fancy: he and his wife Madeleine saved thousands of lives during the Rwandan tribal massacres when, as leader of the Moravian Tanganyikan Christian Refugee Service, he channelled millions of pounds in global aid. Geoff solved the ensuing transport crisis by turning the country’s only main road into a runway for planeloads of fleeing refugees.

The Acheson-Gray Day’s continued success owes a lot to these two men, and we thank them.”

Jerusalem

Those who are joining us for dinner are warmly invited to partake in the tradition of singing *Jerusalem* after the meal.

Jerusalem Hymn Lyrics

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy lamb of god
On England's pleasant pastures seen?

And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear: o clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariots of fire!

I will not cease from mental fight;
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand
Till we have built Jerusalem
In England's green and pleasant land.