



ON THE VINE

THE IVY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2013

From Ivy on Prospect to Henley on the Thames

/ By Richard Johnston '15

This past summer four members of the Ivy Club and Princeton's Heavyweight Men's Crew team banded together to race in a coxless four at the Henley Royal Regatta in the historic town of Henley-on-Thames, England. Though the Ivy Club has had a tradition of competing at the event dating back to 1955, this was the first time in more than 20 years that Ivy had representation at the Regatta.

The boat consisted of graduated seniors Alex Taaffe (three seat and House Manager from Sarasota, Florida) and Allan Amico (bow seat and the Club's very own weather man from Buffalo, New York). Rising juniors Tharald Fongaard (two seat from Oslo, Norway) and Richard Johnston (stroke seat from Chicago, Illinois) rounded out the crew. It was a life-changing experience for the four rowers as they competed at one of the most storied racing venues in the sport. The oarsmen had the unique opportunity to represent the Ivy Club at a highly competitive international level, enhancing the experience even further.



[above] Left to right: Richard (RJ) Johnston '15, Alex Taaffe '13, Tharald Fongaard '15, and Allan Amico '13

Once the crew's entry was verified, preparations were made. Stylish green and gold blazers were designed to account for Henley's mandatory jacket-and-tie dress code, unisuits were designed for race day, a boat was borrowed from Oxford University, and the oars were freshly painted to show Ivy Club pride. Soon after their Princeton rowing season, the oarsmen travelled to Oslo, Norway to train with the Norwegian Under-23 team and acclimate to the European differences in preparation for the race. A week before the competition, the draw was posted and the Ivy Club would be racing Harvard University. Apparently, the Regatta Committee didn't think that the crews had raced enough during the normal school year.

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[above] Ivy gives Harvard a good fight on the Thames

Graduate President's Report

| By Jim Q. Griffin '55

Photography by James G. Cole



[above] James Q. Griffin '55

Our mission to sustain a membership commitment toward our association's well-being has been successfully realized this past year.

Foremost is the creation of two stained glass windows: one honoring the life of Robert Bennett, President of the '82 section, and the other to celebrate the admission of women in 1991. Further, a new Steinway grand piano has been presented by the friends of Michael McCoy '89 as a memorial.

The Scribner family has given the desk used by Charles Scribner '13 to the new library in addition to many Scribner published books. Two Morgan Stanley partners desks have also been presented by the family of William Sword '76 in honor of his life as well as some of his book collection.

The undergraduates, on their own volition and supported by the Ivy 1879 Foundation, sent a crew to the Royal Henley Regatta last July flying Ivy's racing colors. The students continue to manage the leadership series, now in its third year, as well as the weekly roundtable sessions.

The approbation of multiple generations is self-evident. All is well at 43 Prospect Street.

A Tribute to Ivy Steward Prosper Aeschbacher

| By Peter Angelica '14

The Ivy Club has been fortunate enough to undergo a number of additions and improvements over recent years, perhaps most notably the Great Hall and most recently the stained glass window installed this October in memory of Bob Bennett '82. While such physical additions to the Club are easily recognizable, there have been a number of contributions made by individuals to Ivy that are not as easy to record. When examining those who have played important roles in the Club's development, there are few greater than the steward who served Ivy for 35 years, Prosper Aeschbacher.

Though Prosper's life with Ivy started on the night he served members Stoney Simmons '42 and James Carey '29 drinks at the Princeton Inn during the spring of 1942, his life in Princeton, NJ started well before that. Ship logs reveal that Prosper became a naturalized citizen via the Mercer County Courthouse on June 25, 1927, after working as a waiter in both New York and Princeton for the previous six years. During this period Prosper lived with his wife, Alice Aeschbacher, in the apartments that are above what is now Agricola Eatery, formerly Lahiere's. Records indicate that the two traveled briefly to Europe during that summer, and then returned to their home in Princeton in early September 1927.

Ivy Tote Bags Now for Sale

Ivy is proud to now offer an exclusive line of Ivy Club tote bags. These Lands End produced bags are beautifully adorned with the Ivy logo and club motto. Large and medium bags are available with either a black or green shoulder strap. The large bags can be purchased for \$55 plus shipping and the medium for \$45 plus shipping. To purchase a bag, please send an email to ivybetty@princeton.edu.



Photography by Charmaine Lee

Prosper's next home became 43 Prospect Avenue when he began working at Ivy on April 1, 1942. The account of his tenure at Ivy by Frederic Rich '77 in his book on Ivy's history is described fondly as being characterized by the Swiss server's "courtesy, efficiency, and loyalty." Such loyalty was surely tested when the Club was closed in 1943 and Prosper was solely responsible for the building's upkeep a little over a year after his installation. Many of Prosper's numerous contributions to the Club remain defining Ivy institutions to this day. Beyond instituting such menu staples as omelets for breakfast and hamburgers for Thursday lunches, Prosper, oversaw the permanent installation of the bronze tiger that now resides over the fireplace in the dining room room, with the help of then professor and sculptor Joe Brown.

Prosper's ability to remember the names of the members even years after their graduation was uncanny. He always made sure to keep a spare room available for any graduate on the second floor, despite the fact that it was only occupied a handful of times each year.

Not much information is available about Prosper after his retirement in 1976. Though he continued to visit Ivy from his home in Princeton Junction through his death in 1988, Prosper still remains a permanent fixture in the Club via his portrait that hangs in the Music Room put up a few years after his passing.

It is important to regularly recognize those who have been very generous to the preservation and continuation of Ivy. Remembering Prosper this fall, however, holds special significance. Specifically, Prosper's time as steward overlapped with the tenures of three University Presidents (Dodds, Goheen, and Bowen), offering us a lens to appreciate the Club's ability to remain regardless of the University's stance towards the eating clubs. Such an understanding is particularly comforting in the wake of President Eisgruber's installation this fall.



From Ivy on Prospect to Henley on the Thames

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On race day, as the Ivy four launched from the boat tents, the crew went through their standard warm up, trying not to lose focus to the cheers of the thousands of spectators. Eventually, both the Ivy Club and Harvard were aligned and locked-in at the famous Bucks and Berks station, and the race was off. The start was dead even between the two boats. Three hundred meters into the race, bow seat Allan Amico roared in attempt to push the crew to surge ever slightly away from the Crimson. He knew that the crew was going to need a very strong first half as most races are decided in the first 500 meters at Henley. It worked, and the Ivy Club was up by a very narrow margin. Unfortunately, the Crimson were able to retaliate and took their infamous push at the Barrier (marking the first quarter of the race). Harvard took a commanding lead and were able to hold it for the remainder of the race. The Harvard boat eventually made their way into the final of the event.

Although this was not the result the Ivy Club had hoped for, it was an experience of a lifetime that was made possible by the support and generous donations of Ivy's graduate members. The opportunity given to the rowers by the Club shows Ivy to be more than the average eating club as it affords unique international experiences to members. The four rowers will never forget the experience that they had and hope that this legacy continues.

News from the Ivy 1879 Foundation

Bennett Tribute Window Complete!

| By Bill Ughetta '82

During October break representatives of the German stained glass artisans Glasmalerei installed the six window lites that form the large southern window in the Great Hall of the new Griffin Wing. Fifty-four friends of Bob Bennett and the Ivy Club contributed more than \$265,000 to create a “great window” in memory of Robert Egan Bennett. Bob died in 2011 after a long battle with cancer. Bob grew up



[above] Left to right: Section of '82 members Bob Bennett, Jay Wallace and Rip Wilson

in Peapack, NJ and graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, where he was an All-American lacrosse goalie. He majored in history at Princeton and was Undergraduate President of the Section of 1982. Bob was a Baker Scholar at Harvard Business School and went on to work at Goldman Sachs and Berkshire Hathaway. Bob married Julie Wallace '83, and they have two sons Jake and Drew. Even though Bob and his family settled in the Boston area, Bob was a dyed-in-the-wool, over-the-top New York Giants fan who followed the Giants as closely as he followed his own sons' hockey and baseball games.

In creating a tribute to a life well lived that is suitable for the Great Hall, we asked Brody Neuenschwander, a member of the Section of 1981, to reflect on his own experiences at Ivy and on Bob's life to create an original work of art that captures the bright spirit and quiet enthusiasm of Benny. Brody is a world-renowned artist and his creation is stunning. We extend a big locomotive style “THANK YOU” to all those who have contributed to the creation of this wonderful window. Please be sure to stop by the great room to enjoy it.

Photography by Charmaine Lee



[above] New Bob Bennett '82 Memorial window adorns the south facing window of the Great Hall

Women of Ivy Campaign Surpasses Goal

| *By Allison Bridges '96*

The Club is thrilled with the success of this fall's Women of Ivy campaign. The Women of Ivy committee reached out to Ivy's 725 female alums and raised a total of more than \$107,000, far surpassing our goal of \$75,000! The campaign supports the commission of a stained glass window for the south façade of the Lower Library of Ivy's new wing. The window, which will be produced by the award-winning Tom Venturella Studio, will be a dramatic, airy rendering of Monarch butterflies, orange and black, floating upward through ivy vines, representing the women of Ivy, past, present, and future. The overwhelming success of the campaign enables the women of Ivy to fund the window and to make an additional, meaningful contribution towards the Club's new wing construction costs.

We thank the 21 Ivy alumnae who served on the Women of Ivy committee and whose efforts made this project possible. Additionally, we thank Vineyard Vines for their donation of the design and production of our fabulous special edition "Women of Ivy" tote. The Women of Ivy window should be installed by Reunions 2014, so we encourage you all to visit the Lower Library to see this special addition to the Club.



[above] Sketch of proposed window by Venturella Studio of New York

Support the Ivy 1879 Foundation

We are most grateful for the enthusiastic support that the Ivy family has shown the Foundation. Your generosity over the last year has enabled the successful creation of the new Griffin Wing, the Bennett Memorial window, the Women of Ivy window, sending a team to Henley, a new Steinway piano in honor of Mike McCoy, financial assistance to a dozen students, and the Leadership and Roundtable programs. This year we ask that you consider a gift of general support to the Ivy 1879 Foundation to provide for Ivy's educational programs and financial assistance. Gifts to the Foundation are fully tax-deductible and can also be made online at theivyclub.net or by contacting Molly Jones at ivy.club.board@gmail.com or by phone at 609-423-8136.



Undergraduate President's Report



[above] Thatcher Foster '14

When Chris Eisgruber took over as the new president of Princeton, he made it clear that stability and “keeping on the course” were his main ambitions. As the wonderful, indispensable, and at times stern, Betty Rascher would say (I imagine) – stability is a good thing and that’s what

has defined the Ivy Club in the past six months. Not to mention, I like to think Ivy could be on Princeton’s trajectory: you know – global prominence, massive endowment, and a place where Woody Allen wants to come and chat.

Ushering in the autumn, as per usual, we held a fall bicker session. This session was one of the most competitive to date, with only five percent of applicants being offered admission. Our bicker chair, Alexander Bayman put together a flawless and incredibly detailed process that all the members were delighted with. The new members have already assimilated brilliantly into the Club. For example: Casilda Aresti, a new member from Madrid is everyone’s favorite sports fan with her complete and at times frenzied love for soccer. Along with bicker, we held our annual Tiger Inn versus Ivy Olympics (a competition that pits both clubs against each other in a variety of events). A particular highlight was Owen Knights ’14 heaving an empty keg into orbit – around 30 feet away, and winning us the event.

As for how the club functions on a daily basis – everything is copasetic. We have held two roundtable sessions, one with Arjun Jain’s ’14 father and another with the energetic and endless conversationalist Professor Jeff Nunokawa. Dinner is as thriving as ever. Chef Paul has done some magical and wondrous things with Brussels

sprouts and skirt steak – to name a few. One exciting new endeavor was the first annual Ivy Pumpkin Carving. Susannah Shipton ’14 led, after petitions and lobbying, the day-long event.



[above] A truly Ivy jack-o-lantern from Ivy’s first Pumpkin Carving celebration.

Although it’s only a few weeks into the year, Ivy is as stable and proud as ever. So come by and see the new stained glass window in the Great Hall and stay for dinner. As Ronnie Reagan once said: “All great things in America happen at the [Ivy] dinner table.”

In Betty we trust,
Thatcher

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Sachs' Memorial Scholarship Fund Grows

| By Philip Detjens '60

Photography by Charmaine Lee



[above] Daniel M. Sachs portrait by artist Peter Cook '37

The 1960 Section of Ivy, originally a group of 34, was unique in many ways. It provided all three of the Rhodes Scholars in the senior class that year, also had the Co-winner of the Pyne Prize, the football and hockey captains, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Undergraduate Council and the President of the Triangle show. As alumni the Section subsequently served the Ivy Club by providing two Graduate Presidents, two Graduate Treasurers, one Graduate Secretary and four Graduate Governors.

One of the three Ivy Rhodes Scholars was Dan Sachs, a football and lacrosse player and a Phi Beta Kappa student. He subsequently went to Worcester College at Oxford and was able to win an Oxford Blue playing rugby. Then he went on to Harvard Law School which was unfortunately followed by a cancer diagnoses which took his life at age 28. His portrait, as pictured above, hangs in the Ivy Club.

The Daniel M. Sachs Class of 1960 Graduating Scholarship was established in his honor

in 1970 and was subsequently supplemented by the Class of 1960, who adopted it as its legacy. It provides for two years of study at Oxford and/or one year of independent study abroad. A recent campaign to raise \$200,000 by the Class of 1960 for the Scholarship endowment has been successfully achieved thereby ensuring its long term existence as a tribute to a distinguished Ivy Club member and the Class of 1960.

Save the Date!

Join us for Ivy's 135th Anniversary Celebration at the Princeton Club of New York on the evening of **Thursday, March 6, 2014**. A formal invitation with the event details will be sent to all members in early 2014.

Christopher G. Cavoli '87 Promoted to Brigadier General



[above] Chris Cavoli '87

Ivy's own Chris Cavoli '87 was recently promoted to the highly regarded post of Brigadier General of the U. S. Army. In this new position, BG Cavoli will serve as the deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division located in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While at Princeton, BG Cavoli began his dedication to the armed services through participation in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Since graduating with his Bachelor's and obtaining a Masters at Yale, he has served in a wide variety of positions in operational units throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He commanded 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, and 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, as well as serving as Deputy Commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan. BG Cavoli is also a Foreign Area Officer with a concentration on Eurasia, and speaks Italian, Russian and French. Ivy extends its warmest congratulations to Chris and wishes him the best in his heroic leadership on behalf of our country's defense.



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