

BRA Annual Conference 2015

Speakers Notes

Nat Alcock

Nat Alcock is chairman of the Records Preservation Section of the BRA. Although professionally an inorganic chemist, an emeritus reader at the University of Warwick, he has a long and continuing interest in archives, particularly in relation to their evidence for vernacular architecture and social history; he is the author of *Old Title Deeds: a guide for local historians and family historians* (2001) and *Documenting the History of Houses* (BRA, 2003).

The small archive of the Halford Bridge Bowls Club at Warwickshire County Record Office (CR3486) includes a subscription and minute book from the foundation of the club in 1784, which is among the handful of records relating to bowls clubs surviving from the eighteenth century. Nat's paper will examine the history and activities of the Club and compare it with those of other early bowls clubs.

Mark Blandford-Baker

Mark Blandford-Baker is Home Bursar of Magdalen College, Oxford, and author of *Upon the Elysian Stream: 150 years of Magdalen College Boat Club, Oxford*. Published in 2008, this book is richly illustrated and draws heavily on the College's own archive as well as many other sources from the rowing world and elsewhere. Mark took up rowing as a student and later became an umpire. He is now a FISA (international) umpire and serves on the Board of British Rowing. Among other roles in the sport, he is a Chairman's Assistant at Henley Royal Regatta and responsible for the proofing of the daily racing programme.

Robert Clegg

Robert Clegg is the Collections Access Officer at Heritage Quay, the archive of the University of Huddersfield. His role involves engaging in a wide range of collections access and development work to support the aims and objectives of the five year HLF-funded project that is currently transforming the archives of the University. Robert graduated from the University of Lancaster with a BA (Hons) in History in 2008 and graduated with distinction from the University of Glasgow's MSc in Information Management & Preservation in 2010. His previous roles include Data & Governance Analyst at Direct Line Group, Data Quality Archivist (History to Herstory Project) and Archivist (Nostell Priory Cataloguing Project) at West Yorkshire Archive Service.

Karen Davies

Since qualifying in 1998 Karen has worked primarily in the higher education sector with a variety of archives, including that of Cambridge Assessment. She currently holds a part-time post at the University of Bedfordshire working on the collections of the Bedford Physical Education Archive and the Levick Boyd Archive, the latter of which is a remarkable resource for the history of women's lacrosse.

Eleanor Hoare

Eleanor is the College Archivist at Eton College, a post she has held since October 2013. She previously worked in the archive at St George's Chapel in Windsor. She tells us that one of her ancestors, William Mudie (1836-71), a first class cricketer for Surrey from 1856-65, played in the first ever tour of Australia by an English cricket team (HH Stephenson's XI) in 1861-62.

Dr Alexander Jackson

Since 2011 Dr Alexander Jackson has been a Collections Officer at the National Football Museum in Manchester, which opened in 2001 to public and media acclaim. Between 2007 and 2011 he undertook an AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award researching the museum's collections.

Karl Magee

Karl Magee is the University Archivist at Stirling University where he is responsible for a range of collections with particular strengths in the areas of film, politics, literature and sport. He is co-curator of the touring exhibition *Hosts and Champions* which celebrates Scotland's contribution to the Commonwealth Games. He will be speaking briefly today about the work he is doing with the Commonwealth Games Archive and present some images from the collection.

BRA Bond Lecturer 2015

Dr Fiona Skillen

Dr Skillen is a lecturer in Sport and Events Management at Glasgow Caledonian University and the Chair of the British Society of Sports History. Her research focuses on the historical development of women's sport in Britain. Her ground breaking work emphasises a new way at looking at women's sporting past by examining 'sites of participation', places such as schools, work places and municipal provision, in addition to the more traditional focus on clubs and sports institutions. In doing so, she highlights the ways in which sport was integrated into women's everyday lives and provides a clearer understanding of the development of many popular contemporary sports such as tennis, golf and hockey. Her monograph, *Women: Sport and Modernity in Interwar Britain* (2013), draws on this research.

Dr Skillen has also worked on media representations of sportswomen, advertising, sports clothing and public and medical debates about women's increased participation in physical activities. Her current research looks at Scotland's participation in the Commonwealth Games, in particular the history of the two games hosted by the City of Edinburgh.