



A DINING CLUB
Founded in 1799

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Five generations of
HARDY MEMBERS

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HERBERT CAREY HARDY- 1877
GUY CHARLES HARDY- 1897
HERBERT RONALD HARDY -1939
GUY ST JOHN HARDY - 1948
LAURENCE CAREY HARDY- 1949
ALAN RONALD GEOFFREY HARDY-1980

PREFACE

The Committee of the Sussex Club decided to produce a book containing the biographies of Members to commemorate the Bicentenary of the Club. The book is not intended to perform the function of a biography as listed in Who's Who but to act as an historical record, and give a brief synopsis of the life of a Member, placing particular emphasis on his activities in Sussex.

In order that alterations and additions could easily be made to the entries of Past and Present Members and the details of new Members be added each year, the book is being produced in loose leaf form. Each biographical entry would be restricted to a maximum of about 12 lines. Some Members who were highly eminent in national affairs may well have shorter biographies than those who have contributed a great deal to the administration, the morals and the ethics of Sussex. Following the precedent set in the Dictionary of National Biography entries for the Nobility will be found under their family name.

The Hon. Treasurer undertook to carry out research work on the biographies of deceased Members. It is very much hoped that this book will be a valuable historical record contained in a single volume of the lives of Members of the Club over the last 200 years.

There are bound to be errors and omissions and the Committee would be grateful if Members would forward amendments to the Hon. Secretary. There are also a number of Members, particularly those who have resigned or died in recent years, whose entries are very sparse. It would be particularly appreciated if Members would kindly study the entries of those who lived in their vicinity and come forward with any additional information about them that they may have.

NOTES ON THE ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF THE SUSSEX CLUB

Unfortunately the official records of the Club between 1799 and 1832 and 1885 and 1925 have been lost, probably due to enemy action in the Second World War. The Secretary at the time had died in 1940. These notes have therefore been compiled from books about Sussex and Sussex personalities as well as the Minutes and Annual Reports.

THE ORIGINS OF THE CLUB

The Club is believed to be the oldest County Club. The circumstances in which the Club was started on 4th May 1799 are not known but there is a tradition that it was 'founded on the ashes of a previous club'. It has been suggested that, like some of the old London Clubs, it originated in a Coffee House in London. In the middle of the eighteenth century there was in London a 'Sussex Coffee House' in Fleet Street or Fetter Lane, apparently known as 'The Devill Tavern', where Sussex men used to meet. Traces have been found in family papers belonging to some of the early Members of the Club that meetings were held at this Tavern periodically between 1732 and 1770.

MEMBERSHIP

101 Sussex men enrolled themselves as founder Members in 1799 and by 1802 another 38 had been elected. Great emphasis has always been placed on the need for candidates to be freeholders in Sussex and to have played a significant part in the affairs of Sussex taking into account the length of time and permanence of their residence in the County. In order to allow younger candidates entry the conditions were relaxed slightly in respect of relations of Members. Throughout the nineteenth century and up till the second war membership never exceeded 150. By 1947 it had dropped to 90. Numbers gradually increased until a peak of 205 was reached in 1982 due to the

admission of all Deputy Lieutenants in the County who wished to join. The Committee decided that numbers should be reduced slightly so no Members were elected in 1983-5 and membership is now restricted to approximately 185. Except for the two Lord Lieutenants there are no ex officio Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The original entrance fee was 2 guineas and annual subscription 2 guineas, reduced by half a guinea for diners according to the date on which the candidate was elected. When the number of dinners was reduced to two per year Members elected at the first dinner paid half the subscription. This remained unchanged until 1975 when the subscription was raised to 5 guineas and the entrance fee to £5. As a result 26 Members resigned and it took three years to regularise the position with all Members! In order to avoid a repetition the Committee decided to increase subscriptions and entrance fees for new Members only to £10 and £10 with effect from 1st April 1999.

MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB

There are no surviving lists of Committee Members until 1876 although reference is occasionally made to a committee report. It is possible that Committees were from time to time appointed for special duties. For example a Committee was appointed in 1876 to revise the rules.

The Club was run by a Secretary/Vice President and a Treasurer, both Honorary posts. The Secretary had an Assistant. All were Members of the Club. The President for each dinner was chosen by the Members attending the previous dinner. Candidates for membership were elected at each dinner and the Proposer and Seconder were required to be present and to pay the subscription and entrance fee respectively of their candidate. Members who failed to pay their subscription by the time of the first dinner were expelled from the Club and several notable gentlemen were so dealt with. Some were re-elected at a later date.

By 1925 a Committee of 15 was in existence. Members were appointed for 3 years, one third retiring each year. There were 4 Meetings each year and the Committee elected all Candidates. This occasionally caused difficulties as the rules required a quorum of 8 to elect new Members and insufficient Members were present.

Although the records are silent as to who was President of the Club it is evident that by now the Lord Lieutenant played a leading role. Except for 3 years the 3rd Lord Leconfield was Committee Chairman between 1929 and 1948. In 1954 the 16th Duke of Norfolk was invited to join the Committee and he took the Chair whenever he was able to be present. He remained Chairman until the appointment of a full time Chairman in 1974. During this period the senior Committee Member present took the Chair if the Lord Lieutenant was absent.

With effect from 1950 the Committee meetings were held twice a year and from about that time the President and the four Trustees, appointed from senior Members by the Committee, vetted the Nomination Papers of all Candidates to ensure that they were fully eligible to become Members and to give their views to the Committee.

In 1974 it was decided that a Chairman should be appointed, initially for three years, so that the administration of the Club could be strengthened on a more permanent basis. The 3rd Lord Brentford was first Chairman to be so appointed.

In 1986 the Committee decided to meet only once a year in April so as to allow time for those who were elected to be invited to the first dinner in May. At the same time the Rules of the Club were revised, the most significant alteration being the procedure for the election of candidates. No candidate was to be informed that he was being put forward so as to avoid disappointment if he was not elected. A special Election Subcommittee was set up with three Members each from East and West Sussex, chaired by the Chairman of the main Committee, to make recommendations to the main Committee. This obviated the need for the circulation of papers to the Trustees

as well. At the same time the number of the main Committee was reduced to nine. The Election Sub-Committee was disbanded in 1990 and the number of Committee Members was reduced to six plus the Honorary Treasurer. The President and the Trustees are invited to all Committee Meetings.

RULES, MEMBERS LISTS AND PHOTOGRAPH BOOKS

Existing records show that the Rules were amended in 1876, 1929, 1975 and 1986 and that Books of Members were produced in 1889, 1909, 1949, and 1979. For many years Members have provided photographs of their houses and of themselves. These are mounted in a number of excellent albums and make a most interesting historical collection, especially as a number of houses have either been demolished to make room for development or have been converted into schools and other community uses. Suitable photograph books are almost impossible to buy and therefore six new books have been bought to ensure that this collection can be continued for many years to come.

DINNERS

In early years the Club's dinners were almost always held in London starting at 3 p.m. and finishing after midnight. They were held on the first Saturday in April, May, June and July unless otherwise directed by the Dinner Committee, normally the next Dinner President and two senior Members. This occurred when dates clashed with Sussex Assizes. The President for the next dinner was chosen by those dining at the previous dinner. It is believed that very occasionally the Club dined at The Old Ship in Brighton.

By 1833 a regular pattern had been set and all four dinners were held at The Thatched House Tavern in St. James's Street. Dinner started at 7 p.m. and the bill was called for at 10 p.m. Dinners were attended by a maximum of 38 and a minimum of 12 diners. The average was 18. The cost was about £2 a head and annual subscriptions met the cost of all four dinners. The annual bill for Postage and Printing was under £5!

In 1859 dinners were held on Wednesdays instead of Saturdays and started at 7.30 p.m. At about that time, the High Sheriff of the year, if a Member of the Club, presided over the July dinner.

In 1861 The Thatched House Tavern was sold and the Club moved to Willis's Rooms, 26 King Street, St. James Square. It was also agreed that one dinner each year would be held in Greenwich, normally at The Trafalgar Hotel and occasionally at The Ship Inn. Dinner started at 6 p.m. and Members travelled either by river boat or by train. Several years later the start time was altered to 6.45 p.m.

In 1879 a special 80th Anniversary Dinner was held at Willis's Rooms. The Duke of Richmond presided. 71 other Members attended. The menu was of gargantuan proportions and the selection of wines very wide. Special dispensation was made for speeches by proposers of Toasts and for a reply to each. Glees were sung. There were 10 Members present who were direct descendants of founder Members.

There are no records as to how the Centenary Dinner was celebrated. The 150th Anniversary Dinner, so soon after the end of the war and with food rationing still in force, was a much more low key affair. It was held at Claridges and there were no speeches. It was attended by 51 Members. By 1920 Claridges became the regular venue for dinners which by then had been reduced to two per year. Other places used occasionally were The Albion in Aldersgate Street, Oddenino's Imperial Restaurant and The Ritz Hotel.

Between 1925 and 1939 all the dinners were held at Claridges in May and in December except for the Dinner in May 1930 which was held at the Junior Carlton Club. The Chairman for the dinner was chosen by the Committee and was normally the senior Member by date of joining who had not been Chairman previously. There was still no need to charge any dining fee. The average attendance was about 50.

During the Second World War no dinners were held and no subscriptions were levied. Dinners were resumed twice annually at Claridges. The cost of the dinners there was now starting to exceed the Club's income so that a number of dinners were held at the United Services Club which cost less. In 1955 it was decided to introduce for the first time a dining fee of £1 which was gradually increased.

It may surprise Members to learn that, apart from the rare dinner at The Ship in Brighton, the first occasion on which the Club dined in Sussex was in May 1954 at Arundel Castle. In 1956 it was decided to hold the May Dinner every other year alternatively in East and West Sussex and dinners were held at Eridge Park, Petworth House, Firle Place, Cowdray Park, Borde Hill and The Royal Pavilion, Brighton. Arundel Castle and Petworth House were venues for a second time. From 1973 onwards a dinner, normally in May, has been held in Sussex every year. In May 1976 a cocktail party was held at Wellingham Place to which Members were allowed to bring a guest. It was attended by disappointingly few Members.

For London diners London Clubs and Inns of court have been used, as hotels are now very expensive. The Chairman of the London dinner is a Member of the Club/Inn concerned and in Sussex the Chairman is the owner of the house which he has kindly allowed to be used. His wife is invited to the dinner. Each dinner is subsidised by an average of £260 over the last 13 years from Club subscriptions and interest from investments.

Name	Year of Election	Photographs			
		of Members		of Houses	
		Vol.	No.	Vol.	No.
GWYNNE, J. E. A.	1893	VII	29	II	24, 25
GWYNNE, J. N. W.	1927	IX	31		
GWYNNE, N. G.	1923	VIII	6		
GWYNNE, R. S.	1910	IV	12	II	24, 25
GWYNNE, R. V.	1905	III	23	IV	15
HADDOCK, F. F.	1972	X	14	V	53
HADDOCK, F. N. F.	1977	X	14	IV	8, 9
				VII	5
HAILSHAM, 1 st V	See Hogg				
HALL, C. A. H.	1861	I	11		
HALL, C. R. W.	1973				
HALL, C. S.	1973	X	28	V	67
HALL, D. B.	1898	VI	38	II	60
HALL, D. H. A.	1973			II	60
HALL, E. N.	1838				
HALL, G. S.	1968	X	27	V	45
HALL, J. E.	1886	VI	43		
HALL, R. W.	1949			V	67
HALL, W. R.	1926	IV	46		
HAMILTON, C. 2 nd Bart	1813				
HAMMOND, C. T. A.	1998				
HAMPDEN, 1 st & 6 th V's	See Brand				
HANBURY, B. J.	1993	XI	2	VI	26
HANKEY, B. A.	1857				
HANKEY, C. A.	1921	IV	34	II	10
HANKEY, J. A.	1856				
HANKEY, R.	1811				
HARDCASTLE, E. J. B.	1981	XI	11	VI	55
HARDING, B.	1845			III	44
HARDING, C. H.	1924	VIII	20	IV	37
HARDY, A. R. G.	1980	XI	3	VI	25
HARDY, G. C.	1897			IV	49
HARDY, G. St. J.	1948				
HARDY, H. C.	1877	II	45	IV	49
HARDY, H. R.	1939				
HARDY, L. C.	1949	X	24	V	43
HARDY-ROBERTS, G. P	1954			V	55, 56
HARGOOD, H.	1885	I	44	I	36, 37
HARRIS, W. B.	1972	X	10	V	50
HARRISON, C.	1802				
HARRISON, J.	1799				