

# The Organ Club Newsletter

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Number 104

September 2021

## 1. NOTICES

We are looking forward to our first live visit for 1½ years, to Canterbury, on Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. This is an exciting opportunity to see, hear and play a large new organ by Harrison & Harrison Ltd, based on the Father Willis pipework. You can whet your appetite by viewing some interesting video clips of the restoration – just Google “YouTube New Organ Installed – Canterbury Cathedral”.

For the safety of all, we are asking that only members who have been doubly vaccinated (with the 2nd dose administered at least 3 weeks before the visit, i.e. on or before 4th September), should register to attend.

It will be necessary to pre-book for this event, as ‘Test & Trace’ is likely to continue even after other restrictions are lifted.

We also ask that members should pay for visits by bank transfer before the visit if possible. As an added precaution, the club is planning to acquire a portable bank card reader for those who wish to pay on the day, in order to avoid the handling of notes and coins, so please come armed with a bank debit or credit card. Details will be given in the September newsletter.

For your safety, we would like to operate these measures for subsequent visits, whilst the Covid pandemic is still with us.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at Canterbury - our President, Paul Hale, has a message for all members concerning this visit, below.

**The last paragraph is important, as it asks you to email an expression of interest – if you would like to attend the Canterbury visit, and haven’t yet informed John Henderson [treasurer@organclub.org](mailto:treasurer@organclub.org), please do this immediately, as there are only four places left, 56 members having already booked.**

*John Belling (Newsletter Editor)*

## The Organ Club Website

The 2020 Club Archive downloads are now available on the website – see [www.organclub.org](http://www.organclub.org)

## **Memorial Service for Oenone Cox (1946 – 2020)**

In the Organ Club newsletter for November 2020, members were informed of the death of Organ Club member Oenone Cox, on October 21st 2020.

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Oenone will be held on

**Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup> 16:30 for 17:00 at**

**St Anselm's Church, Belmont, Stanmore**

(Main entrance: Clifton Avenue, HA7 2HP)

<https://www.stanselms.org.uk/>

The Service will include music played by Rosemary Evans on the organ of St Anselm's, to reflect Oenone's love of organ music, particularly from the French organ repertoire.

You would be welcome to say a few words to share memories of Oenone – please let Laurence know if you would like to do this.

If you would like to attend the Memorial Service, please let Laurence know by email at [laurencox@cix.co.uk](mailto:laurencox@cix.co.uk) as soon as possible.

## **November 2021 Newsletter contributions**

Please email notices by October 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest to John Belling, Organ Club newsletter editor, at [newsletter@organclub.org](mailto:newsletter@organclub.org), or write to him at:

42 Cunningham Park, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 4QJ

## **2. CLUB MEETINGS**

### **Saturday September 25th 2021, Canterbury Cathedral**

Our President, Paul Hale, writes:



It is a great thrill to be able to invite you all to be with us at Canterbury on Saturday 25th September. The occasion will be significant for at least three reasons: (1) it now looks like being our first meeting after this lengthy period of restrictions (2) it will be my first opportunity as President to greet you all, and (3) - best of all - it is a

rare privilege to be invited into the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion to spend an evening with its large new Harrison & Harrison /

Willis organ, and to be the guests of the newly appointed Director of Music, Dr David Newsholme.



David just happens to be my godson. His father Richard, now a retired GP, learned the organ at Solihull School at the same time as I did - just ahead of John Butt, David Briggs, Iain Simcock and Laurence Cummings (some innings!). David has generously invited us to observe the pre-Evensong cathedral choir rehearsal,

attend Evensong, and then get locked into the cathedral, where he will tell us all about the organ and demonstrate it for us, before letting us loose to play.

Earlier in the day, we will meet at St Paul's church (a short walk from Canterbury East station) at around 10.30a.m., have coffee there, and then explore the organ, guided by the church's organist, David Rees-Williams. As many Members may know, the David Rees-Williams Trio has a stellar reputation, with many fine jazz recordings.

David was a chorister at New College Oxford in my time as Organ Scholar, and specialises in improvising on many of the fine choral works which he learnt as a chorister. I have asked him whether he would improvise for us on the piano in the church and he has said he'd be delighted to do that.

After St Paul's we will walk along the line of the City Walls towards the cathedral, taking lunch in the well-known and popular *Old Buttermarket*, close to the cathedral. We have been able to book all 60 seats here (for 12:30). Club Members will settle their own bills and the restaurant has asked us to send out menus and ask for choices in advance of the visit. When you receive the menu, **please send your menu choices to John Henderson as soon as possible, but no later than September 17<sup>th</sup>, using contact information that will be supplied with the menu.**

We then walk around the corner to the cathedral, where we are booked on to a guided tour specially for us, at 2pm. A light tea is arranged at the cathedral for 3.30pm, followed by choir rehearsal at 4.30, Evensong at 5.30, and then our organ evening, starting once Evensong is over and the cathedral is clear.

Your travel could be by car or train. I'd recommend the latter – book for **Canterbury East**. The cathedral has to charge us for our evening event, for it

could be raising far more money by hosting a concert that night. It has kindly thrown in, free of charge, entry to the cathedral and the guided tour, but we will need to offer David Newsholme a fee.

Members will pay the restaurants for their lunches. There will therefore be a per capita charge of £40, to cover the cathedral's facility fee, David's fee, a donation to St Paul's and tea at the cathedral. We are saving around £18 by not being charged for entrance to the cathedral or the guided tour, so it's really excellent value for such a splendid event.

Alison Garratt is our Canterbury Member who has worked with me in arranging this special day - many thanks to Alison for doing the leg work.

I'm delighted that 56 members have already booked to join me at Canterbury on September 25th. There are only four places left, so if you'd like to be there, please email John Henderson at [treasurer@organclub.org](mailto:treasurer@organclub.org) immediately. The treasurer will then be in touch to confirm bookings, payment arrangements, and menus (choices to John by September 17<sup>th</sup> please).

## **Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021: Cirencester**

Our visit today takes us to a super part of the Cotswolds, good scenery, many great churches, and other historical buildings.

Travel to Swindon Station, arriving by ~10:30. Thereafter, transportation between station and venues will be via a Barnes coach.

**10:40** Coach leaves from front forecourt of Swindon Station.

**11:00** Arrive **All Saints Church, Down Ampney** Depart 12:00

Down Ampney is most famous as being associated with Ralph Vaughan Williams, born in the vicarage on 12 October 1872

The organ was built in 1874 by J W Walker, 1 manual (enclosed) 8 stops + pedal Bourdon.

**12:20** Arrive **St John Cirencester** Depart by 15:30

**St John's** is the largest parish church in Gloucestershire and one of the most spacious. In 2009 the organ was completely rebuilt by Harrison and Harrison, and is a large 4 manual organ, 63 stops, retaining the Scott case and incorporating some 30 surviving Willis stops.

On arrival, there will be time for members to look around the church and to visit a very good bookshop/CD store just inside the church.

At 13:00, the Organist & Choirmaster, Hugo Kennard, will demonstrate the organ, after which members may play.

Lunch: it is suggested that members take lunch at one of the pubs, restaurants, takeaways near St John's at some point in the afternoon after

Hugo's demonstration, remembering that the coach to the next venue, Holy Trinity Watermoor, leaves around 15:30.

Coach transfer to Holy Trinity Watermoor; or, about ½mile walk via Cricklade Street & Watermoor Road.

**15:45** Arrive **Holy Trinity, Watermoor** Depart by 16:30

The church was designed and built by Sir Gilbert Scott in 1851. An organ by Bishop & Starr, was installed in 1867, and in 1963, Percy Daniel carried out a major restoration, followed by a restoration in 1999 – the organ has 3 manuals & pedals, with 29 stops.

**16:45** Arrive **Holy Rood, Ampney Crucis** Depart by 17:45

The church is a mixture of styles – it has all periods from Saxon to c19, much is in the perpendicular style. The origin of the organ is uncertain, but in 1984 it was cleaned and overhauled by John Bleney, and was fully rebuilt and restored in 2019 by Ross Daly of Worcester. The organ has 2 manuals & pedals, with 13 stops.

**18:30** Arrive Swindon Station - depart 18:41; arrive PAD 19:37 platform 5.

Cost: £30 per person. If you would like to join the visit, please e-mail the Membership Secretary, by **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, at [markmdjameson@btinternet.com](mailto:markmdjameson@btinternet.com) or ring 07802 715634 .

Track & Trace remains a requirement and face shields/masks compulsory on coaches; members also required to carry hand sanitiser to be used directly before anyone plays - a bind - but for the safety of all concerned.

GWR have announced service cuts which are likely to affect trains on the day – members should check the timetable status before travelling.

## **Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2021: St Alphege, Burnt Oak, HA8 0DN**

This is a special visit: our new President, Paul Hale, will describe some of his most interesting recent and current projects as an organ consultant, and Eleni Keventsidou will give a recital (which was to have been given at the AGM), of music by Bach, Stanford, Duruflé, and Reger (Variations & Fugue on an Original Theme Op 73). This will be a 'meet the President' opportunity for members!

We will start at 1.30pm with an introduction and a short demonstration recital by Rosemary Evans (Organist of St Alphege). Paul Hale will give his talk at 2pm or a little earlier, following which Eleni Keventsidou will give her recital. Hopefully we will have tea afterwards, and members can try the

organ after tea. There has not been a Club visit there since 2002, apart from a Masterclass and recital by the late Roger Fisher in 2006.

Book with Eric Shepherd: [bcshepherdandsons@gmail.com](mailto:bcshepherdandsons@gmail.com)  
or tel : 020 8327 0761 .

## **In the Pipeline**

The following visits are planned; full details will be given nearer to the time. Please note them in your diary! (though please bear in mind that these could be **subject to change**, particularly in view of the Covid-19 pandemic).

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021:**

#### **The London Organ Competition 2021**

(St. Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH)

We are hopeful that the 2021 competition will be able to take place at St Clement Danes on December 29th and 30th as advertised. Full details are on the Club website. If you would like to take part, please send in your application to John Miley at [cegb36@gmail.com](mailto:cegb36@gmail.com) by 1st October so that full details can be included in the November Newsletter.

**Travel:** a major change to the traffic system around the Aldwych area will have taken place by the time you read this. The one-way system around the Aldwych 'island' is being replaced by a two-way system, and bus routes will be modified to conform to the change – some existing bus stops will be removed, and there will be new bus stops established. A new pedestrian/cycle zone will be created in the Strand.

If you intend to travel by bus or car, it might be prudent to allow a little more time for your journey. Full details are at <https://strandaldwych.org/> .

### **Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> 2022: Master Class at Merton College**

The Master Class will be given by Benjamin Nicholas on the fine new Dobson organ in Merton College Chapel, followed by Choral Evensong at New College, where the President was organ scholar, 1971-74.

The President has arranged for us to play the splendid Létourneau organ in Pembroke College chapel from mid-morning, while master-class candidates are rehearsing at Merton.

### **Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2022: AGM at St Michael Cornhill, St Michael's Alley, London, EC3V 9DS**

Details nearer the time, but please note the date!

## **Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022: Visit to Derbyshire**

We shall visit the following churches:



- Chesterfield Parish Church, (the crooked spire)

This is a major church with a superb organ and a very strong musical tradition.

- Dronfield Parish Church, again a major church and fine organ. I was once offered the post of Organist here, but unfortunately was not able to take it up.
- St. John the Baptist Church, Clowne, (a former mining village). I was baptised there and it is where my parents are buried.
- St. James Church, Barlborough, village near Clowne and under the same Rector.

*Visit organised by John Varney*

## **Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022: visit to Guildford, including Cathedral**

We shall visit the Cathedral (11:00) - 2021 to 2022 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the consecration of the Cathedral. On the day of our visit the celebrations reach a climax with a major concert in the evening given by the Cathedral Choir including special commissions, which is why we have to visit in the morning. Members may wish to return to the Cathedral for the Diamond Anniversary Concert.

After lunch, we visit Holy Trinity Church (14:00 – 15:30), top of the High Street - this church acted as the pro-cathedral when the Diocese of Guildford was established.

Finally, we visit St. Mary's Church, West Horsley, with its wonderful Frobenius organ, only one or two others in the country.

Details nearer the time.

*Visit organised by John Varney*

## **Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> 2022: Gorleston/Lowestoft**

(Originally scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup> 2020).

Please refer to the 2021 May newsletter for churches which we intend to visit.

## **Isle of Man Tour** (Originally scheduled for September 2020)

We are now looking to hold this tour in September **2022** with the expectation of avoiding Covid related problems – dates to be decided, but will be a week between September 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

### A week exploring organs, with some Victorian transport

The Isle of Man has much of interest. We will focus on seeing some of the organs in the some of the many churches and chapels on the island, but will also have the opportunity to experience Victorian rail travel and in the process see some splendid scenery in this essentially rural country.

The island is a Crown Protectorate with its own parliament, legal system and currency. As an independent state of fewer than 90,000 residents that recognises the Queen as 'Lord of Mann', it has never been a member of the EU. Further details will be published nearer to the date.

## **Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> 2022: Visit to Fotheringhay**

Details nearer the time

## **December 2022: The London Organ Competition**

Further details will be published nearer to the date.

## **Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023: AGM**

Details nearer the time, but please note the date!

## **May 2023: Mini-tour – Devon, including Buckfast Abbey**

This tour (which will also include a trip on a steam railway) is provisional at this time.

## **Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2023: walking tour - “Lower” Windsor parish churches.** Further details will be published nearer to the date.

## **September 2023: Birmingham tour**

This is just to give you a flavour of the wide scope of this very exciting tour. We hope to visit at least the following churches etc.

- St. Philip’s Cathedral\*
- St. Martin’s in the Bull Ring
- St. Chad’s RC Cathedral
- St. Alban’s Conybere Street\*
- Birmingham Town Hall
- Symphony Hall
- Birmingham Conservatory (with Master Class led by Daniel Moulton)



and outside city:

- St. Michael Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield
- Emmanuel, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield
- Solihull School Chapel
- St Alphege, Solihull
- St Margaret's Olton

\* Dr. Roy Massey MBE, our Vice President, is a former Organist here

Other possibilities further afield:

- Lichfield Cathedral
- Coventry Cathedral
- St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick

Further details nearer the time.

### **3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS**

#### **St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA**

Tuesdays at 12:30 Ian Shaw (St Mary Abchurch)

Admission free – refreshments available

#### **All Saints' Cheltenham, All Saints' Road, GL52 2HG**

Sep 25<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Alexander Fishburn (All Saints' Cheltenham)

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Christopher Strange (Peterborough Cathedral)

#### **St John the Evangelist RC Church, Duncan Terrace, Islington, N1 8AL**

Sep 25<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Isabelle Demers (USA & Canada)

Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Mitchell Miller (USA)

Admission: free with collection; Angel Tube; buses 4 19 30 38 73 205 341

#### **Welsh Church of Central London, Eastcastle Street, W1W 8DJ**

##### Glyn Lang Memorial Series

Sep 15<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Michael Andrews (All Souls, Langham Place)

Oct 20<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Gerard Brooks (Central Hall, Westminster)

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Anthony Gritten (Royal Academy of Music)

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 13:05 Rosemary Evans (St Alphege, Burnt Oak)

Admission free / retiring collection

#### **Newbury Methodist Church, 56 Northbrook Street, RG14 1AN**

Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 12:00 Rosemary Evans (St Alphege, Burnt Oak)

Admission free (retiring collection)

## **Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH**

Sep 11<sup>th</sup> 13:00 'Father' Willis - Heritage Open Day

Talk and Organ Recital to celebrate Reading's "Father" Willis organ. The recital will be given by Ben Giddens (St Martin-in-the-Fields), and the programme will include the premiere of a new organ work by Ghislaine Reece-Trapp (based on '*Sumer is icumen in*', originally written at Reading Abbey in 1240), commissioned to celebrate the centenary of the Berkshire Organists' Association. Organ Curator, William McVicker will discuss the new piece with Ghislaine and Ben, and talk about the history of the organ. The event will last about one hour and also includes music by Walton, Ireland, Franck and Widor. Free admission, but must be **booked in advance**, via

<https://whatsonreading.com/venues/concert-hall/whats-on/celebrate-father-willis-heritage-open-day>

Also:

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> 13:00 John Halsey (DOM, Windsor Parish Church)

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 13:00 Relf Clark (Didcot)

Admission: tickets usually £5 – pre-booking may be required, visit <http://www.berkshireorganists.org.uk/events.html> for update.

NB: London area members - remember using the TFL service from London Paddington your senior TFL pass allows you travel on the CROSSRAIL service (almost all stations) and takes around an hour - but it's **FREE!**

## **St Alphege, Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak, Edgware HA8 0DN**

Sep 4<sup>th</sup> 19:30 Steve Bowey (St Mary, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Berks)

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 19:30 Tom Winpenny (St Albans Cathedral)

Admission £10, including refreshments.

Additionally, as part of an Organ Club meeting - see section 2 of this newsletter

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 15:00 Eleni Keventsidou (International Recitalist)

Admission free – sponsored the The Organ Club

## **King's Lynn Minster, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 5DQ**

Sep 7<sup>th</sup> 12:30 David Shepherd (St Botolph's, Boston)

Sep 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Peter Godden (King's Lynn)

Sep 21<sup>st</sup> 12:30 David Hill (The Woottons, Norfolk)

Sep 28<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Adrian Richards (King's Lynn Minster)

Admission free - retiring collection

## **Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster, SW1H 9NH**

Oct 17<sup>th</sup> 15:00 Gerard Brooks (Central Hall, Westminster)

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 15:00 Andrew Furniss (Central Hall, Westminster)

Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 15:00 Gerard Brooks (Central Hall, Westminster)

Admission free (retiring collection)

**Christ Church, Commercial Street, Spitalfields, London E1 6LY**

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 19:30 David Goode (Eton College, Windsor)

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 19:30 Gerard Brooks (Central Hall, Westminster)

Admission £10 (refreshments available)

**Selby Abbey, The Crescent, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 4PU**

Sep 7<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Johannes Geffert (Bon, Germany)

Sep 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Eleni Keventsidou (Athens & London)

Sep 21<sup>st</sup> 12:30 Ashley Grote (Norwich Cathedral)

Sep 28<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Martin Baker (London)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Also:

Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> 19:30 'Battle of the Organs' - Martin Baker & John Scott Whiteley  
and Barnaby Archer (timpani)

Tickets available in advance, or on the door £ 15 & £10

**St Lawrence Church, Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW**

Sep 7<sup>th</sup> 20:00 Andrew Millington (formerly Exeter Cathedral).

Admission £10. During Covid-19 pandemic, admission is only available by pre-booking at [familyhowe@talktalk.net](mailto:familyhowe@talktalk.net).

**St Nicolas Church, West Mills, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5HG**

Sep 9<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Stephen Holmes (St. Michael & All Angels, Lambourn).

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Roy Woodhams (Rector of Cranleigh, Surrey)

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 13:10 Jonathan Holl (Windsor)

Admission free (retiring collection)

**Minster Church of St Mary the Virgin, Chain Street, Reading RG1 2HX**

Sep 17<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Gillian Blythman (Newbury)

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Christine Wells (Hambleton)

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 12:30 Robert Jones (St Bride's, Fleet Street)

Admission free (retiring collection)

**Royal Hospital School Chapel, Holbrook, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 2RX**

Sep 25<sup>th</sup> 15:00 David Briggs (St John The Divine, New York)

We are delighted to be welcoming David Briggs to RHS on September 25<sup>th</sup> to give an afternoon masterclass/workshop in the art of improvisation followed by a silent movie (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, 1920) organ recital.

15:00 – Improvisation Workshop

17:00 – Silent Movie Recital

Booking via <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BFAU>



# LUNCHTIME ORGAN MUSIC RETURNS TO CORNHILL

## MONDAYS AT ONE

September 2021

ST MICHAEL'S  
CORNHILL  
City of London

[www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15372](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15372)  
[www.organrecitals.com/cornhill](http://www.organrecitals.com/cornhill)

**Monday 6 September, 1pm**

**JONATHAN RENNERT**  
(Lunchtime recital no. 461)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| STAINER Jubilant March in D                         | 7  |
| POPPELWELL Elegy                                    | 4  |
| LEMARE Summer Sketches                              | 13 |
| <i>Dawn - The bee - Cuckoo - Twilight - Evening</i> |    |
| DARKE Meditation on Brother James's Air             | 6  |
| BACH <i>St Anne</i> Prelude & Fugue,<br>BWV 552     | 16 |

**Monday 13 September, 1pm**

**MARGARET PHILLIPS**  
(International recording artiste)

|  |    |
|--|----|
| SIXTEN Postludio, from <i>Messe Misterioso</i> | 2  |
| BACH Chorale preludes, BWV 646 & 648           | 5  |
| BRIDGE, Frederick Sonata in d (3mm)            | 14 |
| BACH Chorale prelude, BWV 649                  | 3  |
| ROOTHAM Epinikion (1908)                       | 9  |
| BACH Chorale prelude, BWV 650                  | 4  |
| BÖRJESSON Toccata                              | 5  |

**Monday 20 September, 1pm**

**CHRISTOPHER HERRICK**  
(Globally regarded virtuoso)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| BACH <i>Wedge</i> Fugue in e, BWV 548                           | 9  |
| LEMARE Concert Fantasia-Improvisation                           | 9  |
| <i>Sailor's Hornpipe - British Grenadiers - Rule, Britannia</i> |    |
| BUCK Variations on <i>Old Folks at Home</i>                     | 8  |
| GUILMANT Sonata 1 in d  | 25 |
| <i>Introduction &amp; Allegro - Pastorale - Final</i>           |    |

**Monday 27 September, 1pm**

**FRANCESCA MASSEY**  
(Rochester Cathedral)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| MENDELSSOHN Prelude & Fugue in c          | 11 |
| BACH Trio on <i>Allein Gott</i> , BWV 664 | 6  |
| EBEN Sunday Music (4mm)                   | 32 |

**Monday 4 October, 1pm**

**JANE WATTS**

\*\*\* Visit the Club's website: [www.organclub.org](http://www.organclub.org)

\*\*\* Follow the Club on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheOrganClub](https://www.facebook.com/TheOrganClub)