



Pell-Mell & Woodcote

The magazine of the Royal Automobile Club | October 2017 | Issue 160

LONDON MOTOR WEEK

*The Art of Motoring
Exhibition is one
highlight from a packed
week of events*



**TRIALS AND
TRIBULATIONS**
Our Club Secretary on
the 1000 Mile Trial

**YOUR CLUBS IN
NEW YORK**
Our reciprocal clubs
in the Big Apple

CALL OF THE WILD
Freddie Dew's
adventures around
Africa

**THE SKY'S
THE LIMIT**
Dungeness with the Club's
Photography Group

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ON THE COVER

John Ketchell's *A Masterful Display*. An original painting. Spa 1965 - Jim Clark in his winning Lotus 33 on his way to the 1965 championship title.



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The 1953 D24 Lancia

OUR CLUBS IN NEW YORK

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB GRANTS ACCESS TO OVER 80 PRIVATE MEMBERS' CLUBS WORLDWIDE. WHILE EACH OF THESE IS EXTRAORDINARY IN ITS OWN RIGHT, FOUR OF THE FINEST CAN BE FOUND IN THE HEART OF MANHATTAN.

Words by Gina Samarotto | Illustration by Mai Osawa

The New York Athletic Club

Beginning with Thomas Burke, who in 1896 took gold at the first modern Olympic Games, and continuing throughout the Club's illustrious history, members of the New York Athletic Club have enjoyed a stellar history of Olympic success. Since its 1868 inception, athlete members of the Club have secured an impressive 271 Olympic medals; a tradition that has made the New York Athletic Club the most celebrated club of its kind.

A strictly masculine haven for over a century, the New York Athletic Club began welcoming women into the membership in the late 1980s. The move proved to be prudent as it helped the Club produce legends including judo champions Rhonda Rousey, a bronze medalist at the 2008 Beijing Games, and Kayla Harrison who made history as the first American - male or female - to win Olympic Gold in the history of the sport.

Situated on Central Park South with magnificent



views, the New York Athletic Club boasts one of the most impressive training pools in the city, as well as areas where members can hone their boxing, fencing, wrestling, squash, basketball and martial arts skills. The Club

also offers a cocktail lounge, accommodation in well-appointed guests rooms and suites, small bites and cocktails served in the rooftop Solarium against magnificent Central Park views, a well-equipped



Beguiling though its athletic prowess may be, the New York Athletic Club is equally committed to comfort and relaxation.

communications centre, the elegant main Dining Room, and the Tap Room, a more relaxed venue serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Beguiling though its athletic prowess may be, the New York Athletic Club is equally committed to comfort and relaxation. "While our members may join based on our offerings in the City House, when they discover all that 'Travers Island offers'" says Membership Director Carolyn Gleason "they tend to fall in love." The Club's 'Summer Camp', Travers Island boasts a yacht club, tennis and bocce courts, a sprawling pool, restaurants, and a children's activity centre - to name just a few. During the summer season



a complimentary, door-to-door shuttle service between City House and Travers Island is offered, making a day spent in the sun as convenient as it is delightful.



The Harmonic Club

An intimate Club on East 60th Street, the Harmonic Club celebrates New York's golden age through a Stanford White-designed townhouse that is decidedly elegant and perennially handsome. Originally founded as a choral and debating group in the mid-1800s, the Harmonic Club has evolved to be one of the city's most exclusive and prestigious private clubs, affording its members notable social, educational, epicurean and sports experiences throughout the year. ☺



© Sports facilities at the Harmonic Club include three squash courts, an indoor pool, whitpool, a fitness centre, spa and sauna. Massage, barber and salon services are also available.

Dining options at the Harmonic Club include a classically-designed main Dining Room featuring oak paneled walls and gold-leaf-adorned ceilings, as well as the more casual Grill Room, known for its handsome leather and dark wood details. Functions are held in the Club's spectacular Ballroom

Suite where the light from a plethora of crystal chandeliers dances across an elaborate painted ceiling, or the Harmonic Room – formerly the Club's Billiards Room.

While guest rooms and suites are not available, the Harmonic Club is pleased to offer guests the services of a concierge to assist in securing overnight accommodation.



extensive library rivaling those found in the country's finest institutes of higher learning.

The art on display throughout the University Club begins with the structure itself: a McKim masterpiece, and goes on to encompass museum calibre pieces by American artists including Gilbert Stuart. "During the various renovations the Club has undergone throughout the years," explains General Manager John Phillip Dornan, "we've uncovered a number of exquisite treasures. We were fortunate enough to be able to restore and preserve these wonderful pieces for our members now and for generations to come." Design highlights of the University Club include the library featuring ceiling frescos by H Siddons Mowbray, richly paneled walls, and elaborately carved moldings.

The University Club offers breakfast, lunch and dinner in either the main Dining Room or the Dwight Dining Room, as well as lunch, buffet snippers and cocktails served in the Tap Room. Overnight accommodation is available in the Club's stately rooms and suites, just steps from Rockefeller Center, Fifth Avenue shopping and the energy of midtown Manhattan.

CLUB MEMBER'S REVIEW

Club member Stewart Cowley recounts his experience of visiting the University Club in New York

The University Club is situated on 37th Avenue almost opposite the heavily guarded Trump Tower. If you want to go for an early morning run in leafy Central Park, you are five minutes away.

If you want opulence and elegance to match our clubhouse in Pall Mall, but in midtown Manhattan, then this is the place for you. The club oozes tradition; the reading room is on the scale of our Club Room but with the decor of The Great Gallery.

The whole club has a low-life feel boding in its brownish red tones, giving it a conspiratorial air. You can imagine many a strategy has been plotted here.

The paneled Tap Room is where most of the action happens – the equivalent of our Long Bar. My self-imposed benchmark for checking out reciprocal clubs around the world – how good is their vodka martini? – is rewarded with something approaching our own Cocktail Bar magnificence. Not surprising it was, after all, here in New York at the Knickerbocker Hotel in 1911 that the dry martini was invented (as legend has it). Startlingly, there is free food to boot: spaced pork ribs, beef sandwiches, chorizo sausage rolls and crudités. It's a treat in itself but there is an ample buffet for those who still feel a little something is needed and don't want to go down the fine dining route.

"Have you been to the library?", whispered Javier the Tap Room waiter. His transmitted awe was justified: its vaulted domes and intricate decoration complement the complexity of the books you can find. This is a serious library befitting an institution that has its roots in education.

For those of you who are exercised by our Club's dress code rules, have no fear; the code at the University Club is blissfully simple and rigorously applied: jacket and tie at all times during the week. If you arrive, as I did, without suitable attire from your flight, you can check-in but you will be directed outside again to a side entrance where you will traverse the club not by its magnificent marble-columned entrance hall but via the service tunnels. Consider yourself warned, although you will be able to get a sneak peek at the gym and narrow swimming pool.

The University Club is a real treat and you won't get better value for money in Manhattan for location, grandeur and distinctive New York character.



The University Club

Opulently wrapped in a rich patina that whispers homage to the Club's history, the University Club is an elegant enclave in midtown Manhattan. Corrected with the idea that the Club would be "for the purpose of the promotion of literature and art", the mission of the University Club has remained true to the passion of its founders. Among its more notable attributes is an



The Harvard Club

Founded in 1865 as a way for Manhattan-based alumni to continue their camaraderie, in its infancy Harvard Club members met at Delmonico's restaurant. By the early 1900s and with an ever-expanding membership, the club enlisted the help of Charles F. McKim (Harvard Class of 1867) to design Harvard House as their permanent home. One of the first ten buildings to be recognized as a New York City Landmark, in 1939, the Harvard Club is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the Club is a quietly majestic respite in the centre of Manhattan where excellent service meets social splendour in one iconic location. Offering six distinct dining venues under the direction of Executive Chef David Hawland, members may choose from options including the main Dining Room, the Grill Room or the Rooftop for a memorable breakfast, lunch or dinner experience.

Offering the superb sports facilities one would expect from a club of this calibre, Harvard is home to one of Manhattan's premier squash programmes. Led by US National Squash Team Captain Richard Chin, the Club offers partner matching to pair players of similar skill as well as both



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private and semi-private lessons. The Harvard Club also offers an assortment of fitness classes as well as a Golf Society that affords members the opportunity to play on some of the finest courses throughout New England. Overnight guests will be delighted with the Harvard Club's 79 guest rooms. Located on West 44th Street, the Club's stylish location puts members and their guests just steps away from Broadway theatres, Grand Central Station and a host of coverable destinations within the heart of New York. ●

For more information about visiting reciprocal clubs please visit the 'membership' section of the Club website.

