



CAOKS Newsletter



The association of former pupils of the King's School Chester

Newsletter #45 – August 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – ADRIAN ACKROYD

For me it was not so much the case of 'best foot forward' but best pair of shoes, well polished, for the AGM in April. I had been severely warned by various Past Presidents that for my inauguration my usual footwear - the bare-foot open-toed sandals of my Middle East travels – would be regarded with utter horror. And furthermore such a scandal over sandals coupled with my well known dislike for being throttled by a tie could lead to apoplexy among certain members. Luckily Tracey ensured I was turned out to the somewhat reluctant if not grudging sartorial satisfaction of the Dinner Secretary, Alex Horne, and to the undisguised astonishment of the Headmaster, Tim Turvey.

I was most pleased that the AGM unanimously accepted my nomination of Will Lamb as my Senior Vice President and I am looking forward to working with him over the coming year. I was pleased also that the 2003-2004 Head of School, Wayne Parry, and Head of Girls, Yvette Page, have agreed to serve on the General Committee for at least time that they are at University. Even more gratifying was the election of Ben Kapur, Head of Boys for the past year, to the position of Junior Vice President as from July – which, unless I am mistaken, makes Ben the youngest person to hold the office.

With this opportunity it would be churlish not to particularly thank the immediate Past President, Nick Phillipson, who kindly agreed to become Hon. Secretary for a year to enable me to hold the office of President. Without also the commitment and unflagging energy of the likes of Alex Horne, Dinner Secretary, Phil Smith, Hon. Treasurer, and a small band of dedicated 'volunteer' event organisers our Association would be much the poorer.

The "Presidential Diary" has been fairly hectic since taking office. Having so successfully become a 'clone' for the AGM I was pleased to see no adverse comments registered a few days later when I reverted to my best pair of sandals for the official opening by Danny Murphy of the new All-weather Pitch at the School. I have already taken the advice and



followed the standard practice of Steve Downey, Director of Marketing and Development, of wearing seven pairs of underpants when attending Governors meetings. I can vouch that this does ensure circulation continues in the nether regions for up to four hours seated - although on the downside I did get strange looks from some of the pupils as had I misunderstood Steve's instructions and worn them on the outside of my trousers.

Of late the School seemed to become my second home with frequent meetings with various members of the staff. All this activity culminated in the School's first Summer Festival Weekend which was a resounding success. For those of you who were unable to attend I include here what were the highlights for me, for more coverage see the photo spreads inside.

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

COMMEMORATION SERVICE – Thursday 21st October

10.30am. The Cathedral, Chester.
The Headmaster invites members and their guests to attend.
Contact the Headmaster's Secretary on 01244-689523 (B)

SNOOKER VS GRAMMAR OB – Friday 12th November

7.00pm. The City Club, St.Peter's Churchyard, Chester.
An excellent dinner followed by the competition for the cup (currently held by the Grammar OB's!)
Contact Glyn Meacher-Jones on 01244-400219 (B)

DURHAM DINNER – Saturday 20th November

7.30 pm. Dunelm Club, Durham.
Inaugural Annual Dinner for recent leavers studying in the NE.
Contact Jim Bligh on 07736 931296 (M)

KSRC RACE NIGHT – Saturday 4th December

7.00pm. The Main Hall, The King's School.
Matthew Hackett, Director of Rowing, invites members and their guests to this fun event.
Contact Matthew Hackett on 01244 689500 (B)

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OFFICERS

President 2004 - 2005

Adrian A Ackroyd (1964 - 1974)
01244 390286 (H)
07973 183542 (M)
president.caoks@kingschester.co.uk

Senior Vice President 2004 - 2005

Will Lamb (1961 - 1971)
01244 534830 (H)
01928 579200 (W)
seniorvp.caoks@kingschester.co.uk

Junior Vice Presidents

David Levitt (1994 - 2001)
07855 604074 (M)
0151 339 2304 (H)

Ben Kapur (1997 - 2004)
07740 351765 (M)
01244 671572 (H)

Secretary

Nick Phillipson (1967 - 1977)
01244 880728 (H)
07774 184456 (M)
honsec.caoks@kingschester.co.uk

Treasurer

Philip Smith (1954 - 1962)
01244 328301 (W)
01244 671592 (H)
hontreas.caoks@kingschester.co.uk

Newsletter Editor

newseditor.caoks@kingschester.co.uk

Website

www.kingschester.co.uk

Email

caoks@kingschester.co.uk

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – continued

On the Saturday the new Art and Design block was officially opened by the famous sculptor Steven Broadbent who was undoubtedly very impressed with the quality of work on display. For myself and Tracey this exhibition by the students was the highlight of the weekend with several of the works of particular interest. With a bit of luck one or two might wend their way "Chez Ackroyd". I was also taken on a very informative guided tour of the vast range of new facilities, during which one Old King's Scholar, seemingly shell-shocked, muttered to me 'it's like a ruddy five star hotel compared to the old school'.

That evening a marvellous fast paced production of Romeo and Juliet – The Musical was followed by the 1541 Society Champagne Reception. The candle-lit President's Evening Dinner rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Sunday saw glorious sunny weather for the annual CAOKS v 1st XI cricket match and the KSRC Barbecue. Tim Turvey looked very dapper in his suit and 'shades' as he mingled with somewhere around three hundred bodies. Standing next to him and similarly attired a parent observed of us that we looked rather too much like retired Mafiosi for comfort.

Heartened by such a pleasant and enjoyable weekend I look onward to all of the remaining events throughout this Summer and into the Autumn. I hope I can meet up with many of you at some of these, but if not, then at the Annual Dinner.

The success of events such as the Summer Festival Weekend and the Annual Dinner show that this Association is in great heart and we rightly deserve to be one of the most thriving past pupils' associations in the country. This achievement is down to you.

Adrian Ackroyd.

FROM THE SECRETARY

At the AGM in late April, a number of long-standing members of the Committee decided they did not wish to stand for re-election. I am pleased to inform you that the vacancies have been filled with some younger members including the current Heads of School, Head of Boys and Head of Girls. At the same time our previous Junior Vice Presidents, Paul Lewis and Alex Evans, stood down after several years. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Association to thank them both for all their help in the past. I welcome the new incumbents, David Levitt and Ben Kapur, who are keen to maintain and promote the younger element of the Association. Their contact details are in the Event Card.

Steve Downey has reported fully on the Summer Festival Weekend elsewhere in this newsletter, as has our President in his message. I would just wish to add that some events over the weekend were better supported than others, which was a pity given the hard work in organising an event of this kind.

The hall was packed on Saturday for the excellent Romeo & Juliet, and later 77 people attended the President's Evening – is this a record? It was a splendid occasion, with excellent food, the bar doing a good trade, and an interesting mix of guests who were reluctant to leave at 11pm!

Those who did attend any of the weekend's events certainly enjoyed themselves. To those of you who did not attend, you missed a good time. If, as seems likely, the Festival is repeated next year please make the effort to keep the date free and give us your support. We, for our part, will endeavour to announce the date for 2005 as soon as possible – hopefully in time for the next newsletter. If you were at the Festival and have any comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally a reminder that the President requires assistance with the forthcoming Upper Sixth Form lunch to be held on Monday 20th September at 12.45pm in the Sixth Form Centre. (This event replaces the CAOKS Leavers' Lunch normally held with U6 pupils in late April). The President and members socialise with the new Upper Sixth pupils to introduce them to the Association and encourage them to join. Please contact Alex Horne (07713-631584) or myself (01244-880728) if you are able to help.

Nick Phillipson