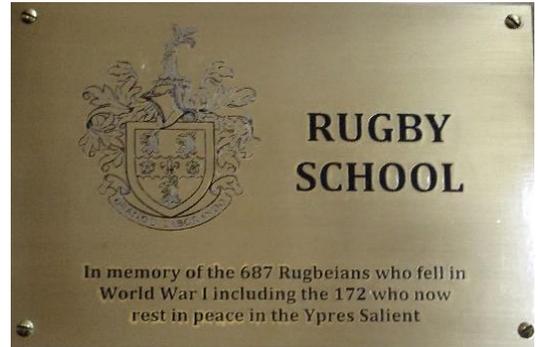


President's Review of the Rugbeian Society 2016

As my three years as President draws to a close I have enjoyed meeting so many Rugbeians at some fantastic society events. Around 60 events have taken place and I have tried to be present at as many as possible

Amongst the highlights of the last three years, for me, were the trips to the battlefields of Ypres in May 2015 and Somme more recently this September. Both superbly led and guided by David Ray. The former involving the unveiling of a brass plaque in St George's church in Ypres in honour of Rugby's 687 former pupils killed in the Great War.



Also memorable was the WW1 Commemoration dinner in honour of Rugby's greatest ever footballer and Captain of England, Ronnie Poulton-Palmer and his great friend Freddie Turner of Sedbergh School and former Captain of Scotland on 10 January 2015. This was preceded by a wonderful dinner in the Collingwood centre for 50 Rugbeians and 50 Sedberghians and was followed by a memorable match the next day at the end of which the score was 20-19 to Rugby.



The Society and School also arranged for a bench to be fixed in place on the mound (the first time a bench has been permanently fixed in place on Bigside) with a very special hand carved engraving to commemorate the two great friends and footballing legends. Both men were killed by sniper fire in 1915 within months of each other.

Ronald Poulton Palmer (Rugby 1903-08) Frederick Turner (Sedbergh 1902-07)

Two outstanding players, national captains, and friends, killed in WWI, 1915.

On the sporting front in October this year the Society sponsored a new trophy to commemorate 117 years of football matches against Uppingham. This was in memory of our Captain of Football in 1899 R.E. Gregson. For the record, the Head Master presented the cup to the winning team, Rugby, who prevailed by the remarkable score of 48-0 on Bigside.

There have been so many other enjoyable events which have included year group reunions, Theatre Club trips, sector dinners, Business Forums and "at home" events. The latter included a splendid lunch hosted by Michael Cansdale earlier this spring in his house next Wells Cathedral. Michael's splendid playing of the Floreat accompanied by the varied singing skills of Rugbeians and other guests will remain long in the memory!

The Society Undergraduate Internship scheme goes from strength to strength since it started in 2013 with around 60 Rugbeians having benefitted from an internships in a range of Business including Commercial Property, Recruitment, Marketing, Operations and Control and Engineering. Interviewing Rugbeian undergraduates has been extremely interesting and we know offers valuable experience to all candidates. I have been actively engaged in the interviewing process each, together with Tracey and we have been accompanied by one of the Rugbeian Society "ambassadors" who have already been given the opportunity of a placement.

The New Parents Reception in September each year sponsored by the Society continues to be very popular with new parents who have just dropped their children off at School. We offer new parents the chance to meet other new parents and hear from our Rugbeian Ambassadors who can explain first-hand the benefits of the Society, including our internship programme which goes down very well with parents as an example of the many benefits of Society membership.

Our business forums have offered excellent speakers, most recently, Will Butler-Adams (W 87-92), CEO of Brompton Bikes who spoke at his Covent Garden store and event gave guests a chance to have a go on a Brompton Bike! Will is providing a custom made bike in the School livery for auction during Rugby's 450th anniversary celebrations.



This year's evening events also included the regular Cotton XX Club dinners, at the most recent of which the Housemaster was accompanied by his Head of House and an additional Levee.

At the recent Welsh Dinner in Cardiff, hosted by Dan Caunt (C92-97), the gathering was privileged to have the company of the The Right Honourable The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales (W 61-65). A most enjoyable evening was had by all at the Cardiff and County Club.

Committee Membership

During the year the following stepped down from the Committee:

Pia Barratt (S 96-01), Stuart Wilson (W 81-86), Robert Pugh (Tu 69-74), Julian Mant (C 67-71) and Julian has since joined the Council.

And we were fortunate to have a number of new recruits join the Committee:

Richard Offord (SF 02-70) and Samara Hammond (S 83-85)

House Prizes

The recently created Kilbracken House Prize (generously endowed by a Kilbracken Rugbeian) encouraged me to suggest to the Chairman of the Governing Body that we should look to roll this out across all our Houses in 2017. I am delighted to report that this had now been agreed and it will happen in 2017. These prizes will be awarded to the pupil in the leaving XX who, in the view of the each Housemaster and his team, has been outstanding in his or her contribution to life in their house. Each pupil awarded the prize will have his or her name inscribed on an honours board and be given a certificate and book token in recognition of their contribution.

I thoroughly enjoyed my three years on the Committee, which also included ex officio membership of the Governing Body and acting as a Trustee of the Arnold Foundation and the Old Rugbeian Trust. It was a privilege to work with our Chairman, Lucinda Holmes (D 80-82) on the Governing Body and the Head Master and his team during these exciting times for Rugby and our nascent joint venture in Thailand. The School is certainly in rude health! The work of the Arnold Foundation continues with Barry O'Brien at the helm with Kerry Wilson heading up the Development Office as Rugby heads into 2017 and the celebration of 450 years since the founding of the School by our benefactor Lawrence Sheriff.

I hope I am handing over the Society to Gareth Lloyd –Jones (M 80-84) in robust health and wish him well.

Finally, I must also thank Tracey Ahmet, our Executive Assistant, for her terrific contribution. For most Rugbeians she is the face of the Society and I am most grateful to her for her excellent work over the past three years. I must also thank her part-time assistant, Julie Webster who put in sterling work especially when Tracey was unable to work.

Floreat Rugbeia!

Simon Penniston (C 65-70)
President 2013-2016