



**PICT WISHES ALL
ITS READERS
A HAPPY, HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**



contents

Charity Lunch 2023	02
Trustees' Report	02
Editor's Comments	03
Angling Section	04
Tennis Section	06
SHANKS Section	08
Ski Section	10
Cricket Section	10
Charity Golf	11
London Pride Society	13
Obituaries	14
Members' Anecdotes	16
Easy Reference	20

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annual lunch 2023

A bobby dazzler of a day expected!

The PICT Annual Lunch is all booked – be it on the slightly later date of Friday 24th March 2023 and will be held, once again, at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel on London's South Bank.

The entertainer booked for the lunch is Bobby Davro, a man of many faces, but primarily known for his stand-up comedy. He has also appeared in many TV roles including appearing in Eastenders in 2007 playing Vinnie Monks. Davro has also shown dexterity with his displays in Dancing on Ice and has also appeared in Celebrity Big Brother in 2015. However, the one genre that he is really well known for is his participation in various Christmas pantos around the country. I for one am looking forward to seeing him at the lunch and the stories he will tell.

So to ensure you don't miss out, book your tickets with Anne James now. But, while on the subject of tickets, unfortunately PICT has had to slightly increase the cost of these due to the increased costs from the hotel for the lunch. Members' tickets will be £110, while guests' tickets will be £130. However, those canny people amongst you (if not already a member) could save a few quid by becoming a member of PICT, which is £15 annual membership, and then buying a Members' ticket...!!!

As usual the PICT AGM will be held beforehand in one of the hotel's meeting rooms, enabling members to attend this meeting and then still have plenty of time to meet with their colleagues for a drink before the lunch itself.

Please remember, the PICT Annual Lunch is the charity's main fundraiser – so do come along and support it. Make a note in your diary now of the date. And just to reiterate the quest for PICT remains unchanged – to support those who will, who are, and who have, supported our great industry and who are now in need of our support. And, by joining in you get to have a great day of good food, friendship and fun and it helps a good and needed cause. A win:win situation all round. So please contact Anne now to secure your place at the 2023 Annual Lunch.



Bobby Davro

Margaret Curle



The entertaining Heads and Tails

trustees' report

Another challenging year for everyone has now come to an end, with prospects for more of the same in 2023. However, whatever the future holds within the paper and board industry, the presence of PICT as a charitable support vehicle will be maintained.

As you may have already seen within your own organisation, PICT has now embarked on a major communication programme, designed to convey the PICT Charity message to all levels and all departments in paper and board related companies.

We regard increasing the awareness of PICT as our immediate objective, and we are actively encouraging Company Senior Managers

and HR Departments to spread the PICT message as widely as possible.

As you will know from our previous bulletins, PICT has provided specific assistance in a variety of cases over the last few years, and we firmly intend to continue that assistance. Please remember that a wide scope of help can be obtained from PICT, and as always, any approach to us is treated with complete confidentiality assured.

Our thanks to all PICT members and friends for staying with us during 2022. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a prosperous 2023.

From the Trustees of PICT



Gosh I can't believe it's that time of year again – how quickly the month's whizz by..... But what a difference a year makes as well. This time last year, everyone was really concerned about not being able to meet family and friends at Christmas, so were cancelling any events that they had booked to ensure they could meet their nearest and dearest over the festive period.

Last year's comment was also a lot different to this year's - with hardly any sporting events taking place due to the continued worry of the pandemic. This year, the majority of events did take place, and those that didn't were primarily caused by lack of interest – which is a great shame – and in particular, Cricket. So come on all you cricket lovers – see if you can make 2023 the year that Cricket goes back on the PICT sporting agenda! And make the Cricket Section's Secretary's year.....!!

With regards the other sporting sections, they have all done quite well this year, although as ever their numbers could always be higher. The Angling section had a good year, with lots of events taking place. However, with the resignation of its Secretary, George Fowler – and no-one as yet stepping forward to the plate - it has been through the efforts of two or three members organising the dates and ensuring they still have the events during the year to enjoy. George's footsteps are a hard act to follow – so well done to those concerned for all their efforts.

The Skiing section, which since its resurgence has been hampered by the pandemic, may have some good news – its Secretary Paul Johnston-Knight has announced details of a potential trip this spring – so let's all keep our fingers crossed for him that this is a goer.

With regards the newsletter itself, there is a new section – an Events Diary – in the hope that readers can see at a glance what events are happening throughout the year and put them in their diaries. Unfortunately, this listing may not necessarily be comprehensive – as some of the sporting sections have not as yet confirmed all of their events - so do keep an eye out for these on the PICT website when they have been organised.

Moving on, and on a more seasonal note, I have a couple of interesting stories. Firstly, I recently heard a debate on the radio as to whether the postal strikes were going to be the demise of Christmas cards – well the overwhelming thoughts of the listeners ringing in was NO – most felt that an emailed card was not the same and receiving a card through the post not only made the recipient feel wanted and remembered, but it was all part of the Christmas season.



The other story is that just before Christmas I went to a live streaming from the Royal Opera House of the Nutcracker ballet at my local theatre/cinema – and this reminded me, that during my time at The Paper Trail's Frogmore Mill, when the full-size paper machine was running, the mill made the board for Freed of London. Who you might say.....?? Well, you may not be aware but Freed of London is the world's leading manufacturer of ballet shoes, which are all hand

crafted in the UK – and Frogmore made the board that is used in the production of these shoes. This was a very prestigious contract and a little-known fact. So, of course, it got me to thinking - I wondered with the large machine shut whether the board was still produced? And on checking with Frogmore – it is still made at the site but now it is produced on the small paper machine – Absolutely brilliant !!!

Anyway, I think that is all my news for now – apart from saying – don't forget to book your tickets for the PICT Annual Lunch. It looks set for a fun time with the announcement that Bobby Davro has been booked to join us. So until next time.

Margaret Curle

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

See the new Events listing on page 19 and be the first to sign up and to join in with some of the events during 2023

RIVER TEST, ROMSEY, HANTS - Tuesday 25th October 2022

Thankfully, our visit to the River Test this year was not hindered by Covid19 restrictions, resulting in an excellent turnout of 23 eager fly-fishers.



The beautiful River Test

With ideal weather forecast for the day, early risers started arriving at 08:00hrs, keen to capitalise on the near perfect conditions - light winds, dry, initially not too bright, with intermittent cloud cover. The day, arranged by our most loyal member, David Gould, allows us to fish a 2½ mile length of the river running from the Broadlands Estate in the north down to near to the M27 in the south. We have available to us, not only three salmon beats towards the Broadlands Estate in the north, but also a further three trout beats towards the south.

Unfortunately, the recent heavy downpours had notably clouded the river but with everyone keen to concentrate on the task in hand, it was not long before rod tips were bending, and catches were being reported. On many of the beats the river is fast flowing, and reasonably deep in some areas, requiring the need for heavyweight nymphs to get down to the fish near to the riverbed. This, however, can present us a few difficulties, not least of which is catching out-of-season species, a point proven when one of the guests, Mike, landed a rather nice 10lb Salmon on a purple long-shank heavyweight nymph. Furthermore, the unseasonably warm temperatures brought some unexpected benefits with dry flies also proving effective, Klinkhammers, Daddies and Grey Wolfs, all proving successful on the day.



Callum Noblett's Grayling

In addition to Mike's Salmon, Callum Noblett, our fly-fisherman of the day, landed an excellent Grayling, along with four further Grayling and one Brown Trout. An angler, who shall remain nameless, landed a rather small Trout.

The total catch returns from the 23 fly-fishermen numbered 28 fish - one Salmon, 17 Grayling, nine Brown Trout and one Roach. It is no mean feat landing wild Brown Trout and Grayling, and indeed Salmon, on this beautiful, world renowned, River Test. It constantly maintains its reputation for continually 'testing' the skills and ability of even the most experienced of anglers. Best PICT member was Alan Badcock, who had one Roach and three Grayling.

It was an excellent day with one of the best catch returns from the River Test for many years and my personal thanks to everyone who supported us on the day, but also a special thank you to Mike Tolley, who kindly stood in for David Gould, assisting me to welcome guests and collect the much-needed contributions. Unfortunately, our new President was unable to join us.



Not the largest Trout!

Regrettably neither David Gould nor George Fowler, two of our staunchest supporters, were able to join us - David recovering from a bout of the dreaded Covid, and George having suffered a severe reaction to recent minor surgery. As an entity we are still coming to terms with the retirement of our long-standing Secretary, George Fowler, who has consistently strived to find a comprehensive range of venues for us to test our individual skills. A special mention here to thank George for the incredible dedication he has given to PICT Angling over many, many years.

Despite some PICT members not recording any catches, I know everyone enjoyed their day and are looking forward to the opportunity to return next year.

Alan Badcock

e-mail: alanbadcock@btinternet.com

ALBURY ESTATE FISHERIES, SURREY - Tuesday 22nd November 2022

The final venue for the PICT fly-fishing group was a visit to Albury Fisheries in Surrey. It is a well-known fishery comprising of three locations for its lakes. The group on this visit focused on the Weston Lakes, which are a group of three lakes, two smaller lakes either side of a large lake. These are well stocked with Rainbow Trout and, in December, they will be introducing once again the Spartic Trout, which is a cross between a Brook Trout and an Arctic Char, so further good sport should be had for those fishing over the winter months. There is also a lodge at this site, which is a new addition and offers hot drinks, cooked breakfast, etc to the hungry fishermen.

We had six fishermen in all, arriving from 8.30am onwards (venue opening time), and set up on a cold November morning, a number of whom had been delayed by the infamous M25. The fishing was overall quite slow but a few Trout succumbed to the skill of our members, as witnessed in the picture, a fine Rainbow weighing 1 kilo.



A fine Brown Trout

We had lunch sitting on a very cold and wet picnic bench. Always a good time, however, to catch up with old friends, which is a good part of being a member. We also were exchanging thoughts of how we could perhaps do better after lunch, which is always the way to be, as the fisherman has to remain positive!

This time of the year, however, means that inevitably the light fades sooner and it was indeed a late meeting but certainly worth the effort. All in all it was a good day and I think that when we fish this venue again perhaps we will make it earlier in our fishing calendar.

We look forward to informing members about the planned venues and dates for 2023 in due course.

Best wishes and tight lines in 2023!

Andrew Smith

e-mail: smithac452@ntlworld.com

ANGLING EVENTS UPDATE

Although the Angling Section is currently in a state of flux following the resignation of its long-standing Secretary, George Fowler, various of its members have taken up the mantle to ensure the fishing events continue during the year.

Unfortunately, at the time of this newsletter, no fishing trip dates have yet been confirmed, however, as soon as they are, they will be put on the PICT website. Alternatively, you can contact either Alan Badcock (alanbadcock@btinternet.com) or Andrew Smith (smithac452@ntlworld.com) to register your interest in joining this enthusiastic band of anglers.



Secretary: John Victoros
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ANNUAL PICT TENNIS TOURNAMENT - Thursday 15th September 2022

After another whirlwind of a year, the time has come around again for our annual visit to the town of Weston Favell in Northamptonshire, where our adopted tennis club awaits the PICT Tennis Tournament.

Every year I fear, what will we do if the weather is inclement? and another year arrives and the timing is spot-on.

An immediate and big thank you to all the sponsors, who enable the subs for the day to go into the coffers of the Trust, to hopefully help someone less fortunate than ourselves. So, thank you to - Fedrigoni for the ever-tasty lunch, PCL Avery for the courts hire and bar cover, Iggesund for the tennis balls and Premier Paper for the trophies and flowers. As a result of these kind sponsors, we are sending £280.00 to PICT. It does not feel like much but hopefully every little helps.

So, the annual before picture shows that we were once again blessed with good weather.



Kerry Cotter and Mark O'Brien, Wooden Spoon Winners

Another swift thank you to Annette Clayton from Fedrigoni, who once again helped throughout the day and also took all the wonderful photos.

Now to the tennis...

We had seven pairs this year, which lent itself to the round robin culminating in an outright Wooden Spoon Winner, the Johnston Cup going straight to a final and the top four pairs fighting it out with a semi-final and a final.

This year we welcomed a pair from PCL Avery in Kerry Cotter and Mark O'Brien. Andrew Dunning continues to change partners for another year as Jonathan Clay was missing again. This year he partnered our PICT President Tony Wood, which promised to be one of the stronger pairings. The holders that were paired together last year, Steve Maher and Paul Williams, were back to defend the Penman Trophy and were strong favourites to succeed.

As the round robin unfolded, the annual quest for the Wooden Spoon fell to the newbies Kerry and Mark as their baptism of fire saw them amass six points. Both thoroughly enjoyed the day and both will return, but methinks with different partners!

The Johnston Cup semi-final was blessed by the fielding of Wesley Perks and Sam Ayling from Ricoh, who in the round robin for the first time, experienced a victory that saw them hit nine points against Olly Gale and Pete Stevens from Fedrigoni who got 20.

They chose to play one normal set final as the bar beckoned. The tennis was loud and with much laughter and banter that was heard from most of the other courts at the tennis club. Olly and Pete succeeded in lifting the Johnston Cup.



Olly and Pete, Johnston Cup Winners



Sam and Wesley, Johnston Cup Runners-up



Steve and Paul, Penman Trophy Winners

The Penman Cup ended up with last year's holders, Steve Maher and Paul Williams, defending their trophy against Matt Kidd and myself. Crazy we decided on a best of three sets final, whilst everyone else sat on the patio and enjoyed the last throes of our pleasant summer temperatures with a beer or prosecco in hand, and cakes and cheese and biscuits. Matt and I swiftly fell behind in the first set only to click into a little form in the second set, which Matt and I deservedly took to culminate in the third set decider.

The opportunity for Matt and I as we led 4-2 in the final set was there, but the momentum started to turn, as Steve and Paul turned the set around and successfully defended the Penman Trophy, congratulations to you both. We will avoid the hat-trick at all costs next year! 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.



John and Matt, Penman Trophy Runners-up

Once again with thanks to Northampton Lawn Tennis Club, all that took part, all that sponsored and helped on the day. I look forward to hopefully 2023 with many new faces and, if enough people attend, to continue with a dinner presentation in the aftermath of the day's event as we did previously.

I can confirm the date for 2023 is **Thursday 14th September 2023**. So, save the date!

In the meantime, here are some more visuals from the day.....



P.L.T. TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2022		DATE 15th September 2022	
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Secretary: Mike Kerlogue
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SHANKS AUTUMN HACK Mid Herts Golf Club, Wheathampstead - Wednesday 14th September 2022

I would like to tell you that it was a glorious autumnal day driving into the Mid Herts Golf Club looking forward to a coffee and bacon roll and relaxing conversation before unfurling driver on the first tee. Unfortunately, I wasn't driving anywhere as the M1 was closed in both directions due to 'Animals on the Road'. A swift phone call ascertained that these weren't Keith Spiers' club covers having escaped again but a couple of sheep making a bid for freedom across the King's Highway.

Two hours later it was indeed still a glorious autumnal day as I drove into the car park to be greeted by Captain Bothwick 'Faldo' who had secured a bacon bap wrapped in foil (bless him), so I had sufficient calorific intake to make it to the first tee one hour behind schedule. The rest of the party, sadly only numbering a further seven people, were well into their round whilst I apologised profusely to the starter marshal before attempting some deforestation from the first tee.

The only picture of the starting party is the one of Mike Gee, who may or may not be wearing the sunglasses 'borrowed' from the Secretary at our last meeting!



Mr Gee in his chariot

Team A were Tony Wood and his guest Robert Moore, Keith Spiers, and Mike Gee. Team B were Mike Kerlogue and Graham Warley with Peter Bothwick and Nigel Howl bringing up the rear. (I know this is a perfect opening for a cutting remark or an unwoke witticism, but legal eagles are an expensive commodity, so let us adopt austerity and keep our thoughts to ourselves!).

We do hope that the small numbers (of the party, not the golf scores) were just a one off due to post covid holidays or other commitments that had to take precedence and that the turnout will be enhanced the next time we meet.

Our Secretary, Mike 'Kit Kat' Kerlogue, who kept a low profile at this meeting due to his image rights contract not being renewed, decided that a yellow ball competition could not be entertained with the sparse numbers. Instead, a bottle was presented to each team winner with the highest stabelford score.

We were delighted to welcome Gill Windett, wife of our dear departed friend, Mike 'Divot' Windett, to present the prizes. Tony Wood, winner in Team A, with a robust score of 42 points and Mike Kerlogue, winner in Team B, with a more modest but befitting score of 29 points.



Team A Winner



Team B Winner



Nigel Howl, Steele Bowl winner, 2nd year running

The Steele Bowl, best score for those with handicaps of 24 or above, is competed for at the Autumn meeting and Nigel Howl somehow retained it due to lack of competition and nobody being able, or willing, to recalculate handicaps on the new portable World Handicap System.

The eagerly awaited Steve Beckett Trophy for Shanker of the Day had a number of nominations: Tony Wood for losing a family heirloom, which may have constituted a 15th club in the bag if it had not been lost;



Robert Moore winner of the Steve Beckett Trophy

Mike Gee for performing a balletic pose when playing a shot through his legs; Graham Warley for fiddling with his buggy remote control in his pocket (no, we are being serious here!) and causing said buggy to veer across the 6th tee endangering life before rolling into a ditch; Robert Moore for twice bombarding an adjacent Romany Camp from the 11th tee and for remaining calm in light of a very frosty response to his request 'could I have my balls back, please?'

A light-hearted and good-natured debate concluded with Robert being presented with the award on his Shanks' debut.

SHANKS GOLF IN 2023

Thursday 18th May 2023

We have booked to play at our Captain's course in Redditch, Worcs, which will be a welcome return after a number of years. For those travelling up from the 'south' we have hotel accommodation at the course for those who want to stay overnight. Please put the date in your diary and more details will follow in March. Cost for golf and dinner early evening £75.



10th hole at Abbey Golf Club

Tuesday 12th September 2023

We are returning to the lovely parkland course at Mid Herts Golf Club at Wheathampstead, Herts, which we played last September and the only downside was that we only had eight golfers that day; so we thought we would go back for all those Shanks who missed

Finally, and with much fanfare, we had the inaugural presentation of the Divot Trophy in memory of Mike Windett. The extra-large rake was awarded for the greatest number of bunkers visited in the



Divot Trophy winner Keith Spiers

round and was fiercely contested. Keith Spiers and Mike Kerlogue both visited three each and a time out was needed for a swift committee meeting to ascertain that the trophy could be awarded on count back. Keith's last two visits were on the 16th and 18th and he prevailed over 'Kit Kat' who visited the 15th and 18th.

Our thanks to Mid Herts GC for looking after us in a most hospitable manner after an initial mix up over tee times, Tony Wood, President of PICT, for his support and many hugs to Gill Windett for attending the dinner and presenting the prizes.

£118 was raised for PICT and those who attended had a thoroughly enjoyable day. Hats off again to Mike Kerlogue for his organisation and fortitude.

Nigel (the Scribe) Howl

out on the opportunity of experiencing a great golf course. Cost for golf and dinner early evening £75.



2nd hole at Mid Herts Golf Club

Golf for both dates will commence at 12 noon for meet up with bacon roll and coffee, and first tee time will be 1.00pm. After play, early evening two course meal around 6.30ish and prize giving. Cost for each day is £75.00.

Interested in joining us? It's very easy just send an e-mail to Mike Kerlogue - michaelkerlogue@outlook.com or phone him on 07970 148 056 and you will be booked in to play.

cricket



Secretary: Mike Robertson
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mike.robertson@sylvamo.com

Unfortunately, once again it was not possible to organise a cricket match this summer. However, Mike is forever hopeful that he can arrange a game for 2023, and is looking at a new 100 cricket match in line with the new format.

But, as always, he does need your help in doing so. So, if you are interested in being part of a cricket team, or indeed can get together a team, why not contact Mike.

Just to reiterate, you don't need to be a hot shot cricketer to join – you just need to want to have an enjoyable day out with colleagues and friends in your industry – and most importantly help raise funds for PICT's good causes. Remember, guests are also welcome to join in – so why not get a few mates together and have a fun day out.

As ever, we all agree that it would be great to see cricket back on the PICT sporting agenda.

skiing



Secretary: Paul Johnston-Knight
Tel. No: 07740 710757
E-mail:
paul@papico.co.uk

The last skiing trip was arranged for March 2020 – a period of time etched in all our memories for the introduction of lockdowns and working-from-home – when everything changed.

Paul Johnston-Knight, the Skiing Section's Secretary is confident that things are now as back to normal as they are going to be and so he is keen to organise a Skiing trip in 2023. Currently he is looking at after the school's half-term, perhaps late February or early March, and is proposing a five-day trip encompassing a weekend and three weekdays, with two travel days and three full days' skiing, either Wed-Sun or Sat-Wed. He is planning to book somewhere in Austria – Salzburg or Tirol – as it is the alpine region he knows best.

Paul states that the numbers and locations of those coming, as well as availability, will of course affect flight routes, where and how the group will stay in resort. There will be a PICT-supporting charity element to the trip and this will be built into the costs. Of course, he will keep costs to a minimum but this sporting section will encourage and further the charity work just like the others do.

However, Paul states that the first task is to garner interest in such a trip and therefore he asks you to e-mail Anne James (anne@pictuk.com) to indicate your positive interest in such an event, subject, of course, to suitable dates and costs.

Paul looks forward to hearing from all those that are keen and able to take part in this trip.

Following a two year absence caused by the pandemic, it was great to revive the Charity Golf Day at Rothley Park on Wednesday 19th October this year. I'm pleased to report the event was well supported with 10 teams turning out on a lovely autumn day in Leicestershire.

The course, which had recently hosted the English Seniors Championship, was in perfect condition, with the very fast greens proving a challenge to many of the competitors. The great conditions produced some fine scores with the team from Chapelton Board, led by Rob Barker, proving worthy winners. Rob also produced the longest drive in a very impressive display.

The Premier Paper team led by Dave Jones and including the PICT President, Tony Wood, ran the winners close with only a point in the

scores. The team from Folbb UK, led by Mark Aubrey, were third in a competitive day on the course.

We are grateful for the generous donation of prizes from Denmaur, Elliot Baxter, Premier Paper and Devon Consulting, which means all the funds raised on the day go to good causes. With such excellent support we raised over £1,500 on the day whilst enjoying great golf, in good company in the best traditions of PICT.

As always, we were made very welcome by all at Rothley Park and they are keen to see us again next year.

Fred Haines



Longest drive winner Rob Barker



Tony Wood presents the winning team from Chapelton Board with their prizes

The next Paper Appreciation Course will take place at The Paper Trail near Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire on Wednesday 22nd March.

The course lecturer will be Don Turner, following John Watson's retirement. Don is well placed to take over from John, as he has worked extensively within the paper industry and for many years has been involved in training and team building.

This Paper Appreciation Course is unique in that it focuses on the benefits that paper and its attributes bring to the end-uses. So, whilst the many elements of paper production are discussed, at each stage it is described how this process affects the paper, for example, formation, opacity, thickness, stiffness and so on. The key objective of the course, is not to produce budding papermakers, but for the delegates to better understand the attributes of the various grades of paper and what they bring to the end products.

This one-day course is ideal for employees who would not normally have the chance to visit a fully working paper mill but are working within the paper merchandising, printing or associated industries.

Comments from recent participants include: "This course gave me a different view on the paper I deal with, into how it was made and the role it is destined for", "Fantastic, enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend" and "This course will help me focus more on the end-users requirements – customer first!"

For further information on the course or to book your place, please contact:

Tim Bowler on 0115 960 9595; e-mail: trb@focalstrength.co.uk
Or visit the website www.focalstrength.co.uk/pacintro.htm

past presidents' lunch

The Past Presidents' lunch was relaunched at the Brasserie Blanc on London's Southbank, on the 4th November after many years. Unfortunately, due to health reasons and other commitments the turnout was lower than expected, however, a good lunch was had by the 11 who attended. It was not only a great opportunity to network, but also to look over the past couple of years and discuss ways to lift the profile of PICT. The current Committee are

actively looking to promote the Charity and its good work and this was felt to be worth supporting and driving forward.

A very pleasant function.

*Rod Benwell
Past President*



200 club

Now an established fundraising institution, the 200 Club helps raise much needed monies for PICT. With two draws a year, the last draw was held in September and the winners were as follows:

£250 – Devlin Osborn

£100 – George Dean (who kindly donated it back to PICT)

If you fancy joining the 200 Club and being in with a chance of winning, please contact Anne James by e-mailing: anne@pictuk.com, who will send you further information and a form to complete. It's as easy as that.

And it is worth remembering that you can either join in as an individual or perhaps your company may wish to get involved and block buy some shares. The shares are just £25 each per year and help make a much-needed contribution to PICT's charitable funds.



So really it's a Win:Win situation – you could win in one of the draws and PICT wins by being able to help those in need. Go on – contact Anne now and sign up! You never know at the next draw it could be you!

London Pride Society Luncheon Club - 10th November 2022

Despite problems caused by transport strikes, particularly the London Underground, 18 of us descended upon our favourite watering hole, the Boot & Flogger at Redcross Way in Southwark. We gathered between 12 and 1pm for pre-lunch drinks then sat at a beautifully laid table in one of the Boot's downstairs dining rooms. Owen Davies, our main co-ordinator for this twice-yearly event, made the Welcome words and said Grace. Mike Rust toasted Absent Friends and Jon Worsley made the toast to the Society.

Lunch was served, a fish starter followed by the traditional steak & kidney pie with all the trimmings and a dessert, all accompanied with plenty of wine. Simply delicious.

It is well known within the ambit of the London Pride Society, we meet in April close to St George's Day and in November close to

Armistice Day. With this latter date in mind, about halfway through the proceedings, Bev Steele stood and recited two of his father's poems based on his experiences in the Great War - 'The Road to Ouderdom' and 'Armistice Day 1918'. All rose and Bev made the Loyal Toast.

With formalities done it was good to just network with friends as one does at such events. It had become usual to repair to a favourite pub in Newcomen Street but with the transport situation such as it was, we decided that discretion would be the better part of valour and just head for home and save it for next time ... and the next time will be April 20th 2023.

A very good day, with thanks, in particular, to Owen Davis for his masterful organisational skills and to Mike Rust for his support in all we do.

Bev Steele



Owen Davies opens the proceedings



Chris Smith tells a story



Bev recites a poem



A view down the table



Mike Rust tells of absent friends

GEOFF POOLE



It is a sad task for me to be invited to write about someone I came to know extremely well, and was still coming out to La Cala for a week's golf every year until not so long back. Geoff Poole was 93 when he passed away and was not only still playing golf after passing the 90 milestone - but having lessons as well.

Geoff was the eldest of three children, his two sisters still alive. He was

born to a plumber, and mother who worked in a furriers business in Tottenham. Geoff and both sisters got scholarships to Latymer School. He was the first child in his family to go to a grammar school, an achievement of which he was very proud. From 1946 to 1948 he served the country by doing his national service and left with the rank of sergeant.

His uncle had been a salesman at Walter Makin in Ludgate Hill so his father suggested he should write in and ask for a job. Which he did, succeeded, met his wife-to-be there, married Greta in 1953, and then left to join Percy Haynes based in a Mayfair mews. During this period of his life he also started teaching paper making at the London School of Printing. He decided to move on from, then, Ian Haynes, to partner Tom Yates at Edwards and Cleave in 1968. This pairing didn't last long because Tom died suddenly of a heart attack, the company taken over and then merged to become Ekman Cleave based in Croydon. The next move, in 1973, was to the London office of VRG in the role of Managing Director. Apart from a couple of years based in Amsterdam, which he didn't particularly enjoy, he returned to London and stayed in his MD position until he retired at the age of 62.

His latter years contained a number of achievements. The introduction and successful sales of patterned toilet rolls to the

UK market comes to mind. He was instrumental in opening gates at Felixstowe for the specific traffic of paper. He was a man of great integrity and enjoyed a successful career in business, a fact of which he was especially proud bearing in mind his lifelong adherence to socialism, the source of lively conversation when we were together. Easy to trigger. Not so easy to conclude.

Geoff joined what was then the Stationers Social Society in 1953, became President in 1983, and was rewarded with Life Membership in 1996. He was also a member of the London Pride Society, and the Paper Trade Golf Society of which he was Secretary for several years - Geoff joined in 1963, was Captain in 1985 and Secretary from 1990 to 1999.

As a young man he was a keen cyclist, competing on occasions at national level. His passion though was golf and he became an important member of the Paperweights GS, which was a small group of paper trade friends who went away once a year all over Europe for a week's indulgence. For almost 30 years. Hard to believe now but great fun and keen competition then.

Another achievement from which he came to derive real pleasure was the persuasion of the committee to allow women to join! Always supported by Peter Chilton it took him about 10 years but he won the day. At first they had a rather limited existence in the SSS, now PICT, but the advocates finally broke through when it was agreed that women could come to what had for over a century been the annual Mens' Dinner! Only a handful attended but that has all changed now.

To end this tribute on a light note one must mention Geoff's laugh. It was frequent, always lurking, and of several decibels. We have lost a close friend and a nice man. Good husband and father of successful children. He will not be readily forgotten.

Jack Perry

ALAN GEOFFREY BROWNE

With great sadness we report that our dear friend Alan Browne passed away on November 23rd, after a short but critical illness. Alan was just 73 years old.

Alan died in hospital with his family by his side, a much-loved husband, father and grandfather. He will be sorely missed by his wonderful wife Yvonne and his family, as well as by so many friends and colleagues in our industry.

Alan started his career in 1966 at Wiggins Teape Mill Sales Head Office, Gateway House in London. He then found his true vocation as a paper merchant, when he transferred to Wiggins Teape Merchants at its Merton branch.

From there he went to William Guppy via a short spell with Grosvenor Chater. Alan's next move was to join James McNaughton Paper, based in Camberwell, where he made his mark as a top salesman. Alan's vision though was to lead his own paper merchant, so his constant hard work and strong ambition created the formation of Classic Paper with other close colleagues. They went on to establish Classic as a renowned paper merchant, and subsequently sold it to a leading manufacturer.

Following Alan's retirement, he spent his time both in Spain and at his home in Surrey. Much of Alan's time was spent on charity work along with his family.

Alan was a keen all round sportsman, excelling at tennis, in which he was a regular winner in the Stationers' and PICT Tennis tournaments. He was a lifelong Arsenal supporter, and although latterly he didn't attend as many matches as he would like to, he could still engage in banter with all supporters of other clubs!

Alan Browne - a true paper man, and a lovely person, taken from us far too soon.

*Tribute written by his great friend,
John Price*

ANNUAL LUNCH REMINDER

Don't forget to make a note in your diary now and book your tickets with Anne James for the PICT Annual Lunch on Friday 24th March 2023 at the Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel.

All at PICT hope you will be able to join us and support this very worthwhile charitable event, while enjoying good food, fine wine and plenty of networking with friends and colleagues old and new.



As promised in previous issues of this newsletter, I am continuing the Members' Anecdotes feature as long as I have the interesting and often fascinating stories from you, our readers. So please do keep them coming in to me.

One of our members, Bev Steele, has once again raided his memory bank and given us yet another great story.

Crossing the Atlantic by air in 1958 by Bev Steele

When doing National Service, you learn quickly to take the rough with the smooth. I describe here an occasion when, for a little while, it all became very smooth indeed.

I was a gunner in an artillery regiment, the first in the British Army to have surface to surface battlefield nuclear weapons, in this case the Corporal missile. Prior to being deployed to a front line position in West Germany to face whatever Red Russia chose to throw at us, we had to prove that we could successfully launch six of these things. The UK had no launch site at that time (the following year it did in the Outer Hebrides) so a few of us in the Fire Control Team were sent to the USA to the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. This tale is not about my heroism in facing poisonous spiders, snakes or ornery silver miners in the deserts of New Mexico but simply the experience in getting there on the first leg of the journey. It involved a weekend stay in New York, which for this jazz maniac had the makings of heaven as New York was still rhythm town in those days. We would then board a flight on the Sunday night, this time an American airlines DC 7C, for the flight to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the final transit to the range camp by road.

This was 1958, before air travel became the total norm it has been for the last 50 years or so when big jets criss-cross the sky at ever decreasing seat prices. The fortunate few of us, some with parents to see us off from Heathrow, feeling a bit intrepid, boarded Canopus, one of BOAC's premier airliners of the day. This particular aircraft had been much used previously by royalty and senior politicians, a sort of Concorde of its day in everything except speed. It was of Monarch class, which was, I understand, a cut above First class so it was a bit of a culture shock for a bunch of squaddies just pulled out of a wooden-hutted camp outside Aldershot.....but we managed.

The Boeing Stratocruiser was getting a bit long in the tooth by this time. Canopus was a magnificent looking machine, highly polished aluminium fuselage, a double decker with main cabin above and a spiral staircase down to a smart art deco cocktail bar. For those of a technical bent, it was powered by four 28 cylinder Pratt & Whitney compound radial engines, ie, both supercharged and turbo charged putting out something over 3000hp each for take-off.



We were in a luxury few could then afford. Powered seats that went almost flat, as good as a bed. Above the seats, where in today's jetliners the luggage is stowed, were the berths, which prior to use were fastened up into the roof. The passenger list was 28 in total. I chose to occupy a seat not a berth as I had a fiendish plan in mind. For those that wished for a berth an attendant would furnish you with pyjamas and the slick Speedbird motif emblazoned dressing gown to be changed into in a dedicated changing room at the rear of the aircraft.

The day of our departure, Friday 5th September, London experienced a very violent thunderstorm, which did much damage across the home counties. The take-off was very rough and bumpy with lightning strikes alarmingly showering the aircraft with sparks and, when in cloud, St Elmo's Fire could be seen, blue flickering rings of static around the arcs of the propellers. It was all very spectacular but not enough to put me off my dinner, which was champagne, smoked salmon, a very prime steak and a lot of good wine. As a callow youth of 19, I decided I could get used to this.

Being very interested in all things aviation my plan was to visit the flight deck. I asked the stewardess if I could make the visit, permission was quickly given and I went forward to be greeted by the Captain. The flight deck of a Stratocruiser is very spacious in comparison to a modern jet airliner. The flight engineer sat side-on consulting his dials controlling the fuel flow to the engines. There was a navigator with a bubble sextant who'd climb up to an astrodome, a window in the roof of the rear part of the cockpit to take star shots to plot our course. The course alterations would be called down to the pilot to make the adjustments to the auto pilot universally known as George. I was invited to sit in the right-hand seat, the First Officer's position. I asked my questions and the Captain showed me the details of where we were (no satellites in those days) about how we were above the radar horizons so we were effectively out of sight to more or less everyone. I found it all fascinating and was up there well over an hour. The air was turbulent. These piston engine aircraft didn't fly as high as the jets so rough weather generally could not be avoided. I left the flight deck much impressed by the quiet efficiency and kindness of the crew. It was back to my seat, which was just behind the port side engine so I don't think I slept much.

We landed at Gander, Newfoundland, in stygian darkness. New York could not be reached in one leap back then. We walked across the tarmac to a brightly lit hangar. I remember the smell of the sea and pine resin. We were offered light refreshments and us troops were issued with a white postcard, which we addressed to home with a note to mother and father telling that we had made it across the Atlantic. It really was another world. The free cards went into a glass pillar box and were sent home on the next return flight.

It was a further two hours or so flying through a brightening sky over Boston and on down the east coast, Rhode Island, Long Island, etc. Approaching New York the pilot took us down low along the length of Manhattan Island, over the Statue of Liberty for photo opportunities, a turn up the Hudson, and over to Idlewild as JFK was known in those days. I can't imagine they would do that now. We arrived about 8am local time walking out into a warm, very humid New York to face US Customs and a US Army camera crew and two days of fun in

Manhattan, the city that never sleeps.....and neither did we.

Thank you Bev – yet again an excellent tale, and I am sure I have said this before, but what an interesting and fascinating life you have lead – can I feel a book coming on?!

Sadly, our doyen of the insect world and caravanning enthusiast was unable to furnish us with his fascinating stories this time, but has promised he will provide us with some interesting tales for the summer issue.

So, unfortunately, you only have my spiel this time to keep you going..... although not as exciting as Bev's, but here goes.

Once again, I decided to take a stall at Frogmore Paper Mill's Christmas Fayre in December. This time, I not only sold my hand produced block printed items (tea towels, bags and Christmas cards) and homemade jams and chutneys, I also made some greetings cards incorporating various photos I had taken during the past year.



White fungi and lichen



White edged fungi

For some reason, only known to myself, I have become quite fascinated when dog walking in the woods, with fungi – and with the warm autumn there was an abundance of these to take pictures of – all shapes and sizes. So, as well as producing cards with fungi images, I also printed out some pictures of steam trains from trips I have taken, capturing the engines that haul us for posterity.



Eddystone at Corfe Castle



Britannia at Crewe

Funnily enough – I sold all the cards with the steam train pictures, a few woodland shots but sadly not many depicting fungi I have included some of these images – so you can judge for yourselves!!

One item that I did make, which sold quite well, was based on the Swedish Dala horses, but made of felt and could be used as Christmas decorations. I had first seen these horses, carved in wood, on a trip to a paper mill in Sweden, many years ago, when I was reporting on a new paper being launched at the mill. The company took us to see a demonstration of how these lovely items were made and us journos were lucky enough to be given a small horse to take home – which I still have. In fact, I displayed this model with my felt horses – and it generated quite a lot of interest from the Christmas visitors.



Dala horses

Well readers, once again, I hope you found these stories interesting and, remember, if you have any intriguing or entertaining items or tales, or even what you enjoy as a hobby, please do e-mail them to me and I will include them in the next newsletter. And if you have accompanying pictures – all the better.

Margaret Curle

A letter from The Paper Trail



Here we are entering a new year - 2023. Following the fire in January 2022 and mentioned in the summer PICT newsletter, a great deal of progress has been made at APT's Frogmore Paper Mill, along with a few setbacks.

Regarding the positives, we are very close to agreeing the final settlement with our insurers. We set a public donation target of £100K and we are already half-

way there. Also, some 90% of the artefacts that suffered fire damage have been returned from the restorers and when appropriate will go back on display. There are further positives that I'll explain a little later.



Some of the recovered artefacts

One of the setbacks is that a further survey of the roof area where the temporary visitor centre is to be housed requires urgent and costly repair, consequently the Trust needs to accelerate its fundraising activities. Accordingly, the Trust has booked the premises of the St Brides Foundation in Fleet Street for Friday 21st April 2023 where an auction will take place. The items to go under the hammer are all unique pieces of art, for example David Shrigley is donating one of his extremely coveted prints and other celebrities and artists have pledged unique pieces to the auction. A full catalogue and information about how to bid and the auction event itself, which is bound to be a fantastic evening, will be publicised nearer the time on Facebook, on our website and in our monthly digital newsletter.

The publishing of our 2021 accounts has been delayed pending the final agreement with the insurers, which we know to be imminent.

As a previous work colleague was constantly reminding me 'problems are opportunities in disguise'. The delay in opening to visitors, now set for the latter part of 2023, gives time for the Trust to construct and deliver a consultation on the views of all its stakeholders. These include local residents, local schools and colleges, Dacorum Borough Council and the wider community including the paper-based communications industry.

Apsley Paper Trail is now represented on The Hemel Place Board, the purpose of which is to provide strategic direction for the town's growth and prosperity activities through the development of a new overarching regeneration strategy.



The Hollander Beater

And to the further positives eluded to earlier in this article, efficiency improvements to PM4 have been completed, this has entailed a new and energy efficient drive system, and a new press roll. The bespoke wet lap paper machine (PM5) and its pulp feed system is well on the way to being commissioned, as is the Hollander beater. This additional production capacity is necessary as a very innovative product range is being developed for a prestigious client.



The wet lap machine

It now only leaves me to say that the volunteers and staff at APT hope you all had a merry Christmas and fingers crossed for a better 2023.

John Watson

PICT Diary Dates for 2023

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

March

Wednesday 22nd – PAPER APPRECIATION COURSE – Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Contact Tim Bowler for details – trb@focalstrength.co.uk

Friday 24th – PICT ANNUAL LUNCH – Park Plaza Riverbank Hotel, London

Contact Anne James for details – anne@pictuk.com

April

Thursday 20th – LONDON PRIDE SOCIETY LUNCHEON – Boot & Flogger, London

Contact Owen Davis for details – owenjdavis56@btinternet.com

May

Thursday 18th – SHANKS GOLF – Abbey Wood Golf Club, Redditch, Worcs

Contact Mike Kerlogue for details – michaelkerlogue@outlook.com

September

Tuesday 12th – SHANKS GOLF – Mid Herts Golf Club, Wheathampstead, Herts

Contact Mike Kerlogue for details – michaelkerlogue@outlook.com

Thursday 14th – PICT ANNUAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT – Northampton Lawn Tennis Club

Contact John Vic for details – john.vic@paper.co.uk

October

TBC – ANGLING SECTION – River Test, Hampshire

Contact Alan Badcock for details – alanbadcock@btinternet.com

TBC – CHARITY GOLF DAY – Rothley Park, Leics

Contact Fred Haines for details – f.haines@icloud.com

November

Thursday 9th – LONDON PRIDE SOCIETY LUNCHEON – Boot & Flogger, London

Contact Owen Davis for details – owenjdavis56@btinternet.com

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