

Annual lunch increases charity's profile



Andy Thompson, President

The highlight of the PICT calendar – the Annual Luncheon – was held on Friday 6th March, in the stunning Thames Suite at London's Park Plaza Hotel, which overlooks the River Thames and the Houses of Parliament.

This, the 6th Annual PICT Charity Lunch, followed a well attended AGM (minutes further on), along with a couple of pre-luncheon drinks. Not only is this lunch the industry's largest social networking gathering of the year, but it is also PICT's largest fundraising event, with around 260 members and guests coming along to this formal yet fun filled afternoon.

Proceedings began with the paper industry's own presenter and comedian, Peter Bothwick, welcoming everyone to the lunch saying: "There will be short speeches, high quality auction items, and a high quality guest

speaker." He went on to say there would also be the usual fun 'Heads and Tails' after the starter, and a Raffle draw with cash prizes (a comment which drew a big ooooh from the audience!). Joe Piggott was then called upon to say grace in his own unique style.

After a fine starter of Venison Terrine, Heads and Tails took place – it got very tense – down to six .. and then two ... John Tootle and Peter Brown – Peter Brown won and very kindly donated his bottle of champagne to the raffle.

Following the main course, the new President, Andy Thompson, took wine with the Committee, sport section secretaries and winners, and the new Vice President, who he named as Nick Gee.

A scrumptious pudding of champagne and strawberry torte rounded off the lunch, then Andy Thompson announced the prize draw – however, there appeared to be some discrepancy with a signature and it was a Mr O'Neill that was finally declared the winner.

As the coffees and liqueurs were being consumed, Peter Bothwick took to the podium again to formally introduce the new PICT President – although not much introduction was needed as Andy Thompson had already held the post in 2012. A fact, indeed, not missed by Peter who said it was the first time since 1949 that a person had been bought back to hold the post again.

Peter Bothwick, himself a president in 2009, introduced Andy as the paper merchant's paper merchant and was pleased that Andy had asked him to sing his praises again. He went on to update Andy's CV stating that since his last term as President his CV had extended by three pages and he had worked

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Official Guests

for two more companies, adding that he had now turned his career path towards printers. Summing up, Peter said: "His energy and enthusiasm is second to none. Andy is a real asset to the paper and print industry, and above all he has a terrific sense of humour." Everyone raised their glasses and drank to the President.

Thanking Peter for his 'kind' introduction Andy Thompson came back to the podium where he welcomed everyone to the lunch and said that in his speech he would give an update on the Trust's position and aims, stating: "I will keep the formal parts of the luncheon brief and to the point, whilst ensuring that everyone is made aware of the Charity's purpose, challenges and intentions for the future." But first came the thank you's – he welcomed the top table guests and, in particular, thanked Anne James for all her hard work. He thanked Denmaur for its Gold and GF Smith for its Silver sponsorship of the luncheon. He also thanked PaperlinX for its monthly donations. He went on to thank the sports secretaries, and also thank Bev Steele for all his hard work as Editor of the PICT Newsletter and his hilarious stories. He then went on to thank the hotel and staff and everyone that works backstage.

He continued by announcing that Patrick Shorten had stood down last year and Barry Fowler this year as Trustee, and went on to award Barry Fowler life membership. He then awarded Alan Badcock with his past President's badge.

Coming onto the main part of his speech he reiterated PICT's mission - to help those who had fallen on hard times in the paper industry with either regular or one-off payments, as well as educational initiatives and donations to the Stationers' Foundation. He explained: "We want to raise the profile of the charity work – so we are looking at social media platforms and would like help from the industry. Do staff want to join PICT and be involved? Do they know anyone who needs support?"

In conclusion, he summed up by saying that company operations were changing and that it was now a more challenging industry.

Adding: "PICT is there to help those that need help and are in need." At the end of his speech, Andy went on to introduce the guest speaker Peter Brackley, who hails from the world of sport broadcasting.

Addressing the audience, Peter jokingly commented that he probably wasn't top choice for presenter; and went on to say that he had brought along an item for the auction – whereby he held up a tiny Chelsea jumper – saying it had been used by Dennis Wise which gained a titter from those in the audience of a certain age that would remember this diminutive footballer, especially for his time with Chelsea in 1990-2001, where he also became Captain. Peter continued by saying that everyone makes mistakes – and went on to cite some examples of the various reporting faux pas over the years. His impressions of the various commentators were excellent – mimicking such well known names as Ritchie Benno (cricket), Peter O'Sullivan (racing) and Geoff Boycott (cricket). After an interesting discourse interjected with amusing and sometimes very funny anecdotes, Peter summed up by saying: "If you enjoyed me I'm Peter Brackley, if not I'm Adrian Chiles!"

The afternoon continued with the auction – which offered a selection of top items including boat trips on the Solent, golf days, vouchers for London theatre tickets and tours of the BBC – and raised good monies to the PICT funds. In fact, in total, the lunch raised £11,800.

Andy Thompson rounded off the official part of the afternoon, by once again thanking all the sponsors, and hoped that all the members and guests would continue to enjoy the rest of the day.

As ever the PICT luncheon was an enjoyable event, with a good time had by all and continued well into the evening, in that time honoured tradition of the industry, in the bar!! Roll on next year...

Margaret Curle



The PICT year got off to a flying start with the excellent annual lunch held in March in the stunning Thames Suite overlooking the River Thames – gosh was it really that long ago!

However, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since then and obviously I cannot possibly write my comment without some reference to the paper industry's sad news – not only of the demise of PaperlinX – with the loss of such great names as Robert Horne Paper, The Paper Company and Howard Smith Paper – but the shock news of Tullis Russell's closure – I personally hadn't seen that coming. Obviously the large loss of jobs and the effect it will have on the people and on communities is devastating, but also let's hope the history of these places and their products are not lost forever.

The impact of these closures will also be felt by PICT, as these companies were long-time supporters of the Charitable Trust in a variety of ways – not only in monetary terms but also in people supporting the various events and sporting sections.

Anyway, on a slightly brighter note, the calendar of PICT's social events is in full swing with the fishing and golf sections proving popular. The cricket and tennis matches are still to come – so if you fancy taking part or being involved contact the relevant sports secretaries. In fact, all the sporting sections would love to have more participants – so why not give it a go. I know it was mentioned at the July committee meeting and noted in the minutes, but the committee wants to thank all sports secretaries for their help in organising the sports events for PICT.

Another way you could help raise funds is by getting involved in the 200 Club and you never now you may be a winner! As I commented before, PICT relies on donations and monies raised during the year from the sporting sections and events, so if you can do so, please support your charity and see how you can be better involved. Until next time, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Margaret Curle

200 club

This is now a well established institution. I would like to say it is going from strength to strength but the fact is we are still short of participants. I have previously described the 200 Club as a pretty painless means of making some money for the Charity and I ask again that you look at the entry forms emailed very extensively round the Membership. Do join in and give yourself the chance to win a few bob and do some good at the same time. Forms can be obtained by emailing anne@pictuk.com

Draw at AGM on 6th March 2015

1st Prize..... £250 - Bev Steele
2nd Prize £100 - Mike Gee
3rd Prize..... £50 - Neil Entwistle

Draw at July 2015 Committee Meeting

1st Prize..... £250 - Fred Haines
2nd Prize £100 - Mike Kerlogue
3rd Prize..... £50 - Stephen Mason

trustees' report

This sees the first year of Peter Bothwick and Andy Thompson's tenure as Trustees. We have continued to support all of those we helped last year and have had requests from three new ex-paper trade or paper related trade sources. We are pleased to advise that we have been able to support two of those cases by means of a cash donation in one case and the purchase of some communication equipment in the other.

As mentioned in the President's speech at our Annual Luncheon, we did enjoy last year a monthly donation for a 12 month period that has boosted our funds. As always we continue to look for individuals that for one reason or another have fallen on difficult times who may need our help. We would appreciate you notifying us if you know anyone who falls into that category.

From the Trustees of PICT



Andy Thompson

Our new President, Andy Thompson, probably doesn't need much of an introduction to many of you, not only was he PICT's President in 2012 (yes this is his second term), he is a man who has been around the industry for a long time. In fact, he is fast becoming a legend in his own lifetime! And this is how it all began ...

Andy was born on 13th January 1951. He was educated in Birmingham at Hall Green Bi-Lateral School and later at Hall Green Technical College. He then went on to achieve business qualifications from the Institute of Banking, Institute of Purchase & Supply, NAPM 1&2 and qualifications from the Institute of Paper. As you can see, from early on in his career he had a good grounding in the theory of our Trade ... but in fact, Andy Thompson had ambitions to become a professional footballer.

He left school to join Aston Villa FC moving on to Walsall FC before finding out in his words, that he was not good enough to do the one thing that really mattered to him in those days.

With a total change in career he joined the Birmingham Municipal Bank. His foray into paper began in 1974 when he joined 3M selling abrasive papers. He then moved for

a while to Samuel Jones, which was owned at that time by Wiggins Teape, where he tells us he enjoyed 11 informative years mainly on the WT side of the business. It was here he became Manager of the Newcastle Branch. In 1986 he joined McNaughton Paper as its Midlands Regional Director where he admits he had the most wonderful time and where he met and worked with one of his best friends Will Bourne. Under the guidance of John Trumper and Ian George they put in place and developed the central business.

After 10 years he moved to Howard Smith Paper for seven successful years with the likes of Martyn Eustace, John Mellon, Fred Haines, Stephen Paul, Tony Wood and Andy Harding and the aforementioned Will Bourne. In Andy's words, "a fantastic team and great fun."

Ever the entrepreneur he had the opportunity to get involved with Premier Paper, which though an interesting three years did not culminate in the wished for team buy-out from M-Real. The business was eventually bought by Graham Griffiths and Courtney Candler who have gone on to make a big success with it. Andy, ever the philosopher said "you can't win 'em all".

After an interesting six years at Robert Horne followed by a 12 month spell at Antalis, Andy now works with Taylor Bloxham, which he states has been enlightening, exciting and very enjoyable.

He lives with his partner Jan Cornwell who used to work in the Trade. He has four children from previous marriages, three boys and a girl, and four grand children and has a number of hobbies. Football is, of course, close to the top where he and his brother are Birmingham City season ticket holders and long time sufferers, he says. He loves music - bit of a rocker really. Goes to lots of live gigs, has a heap of CDs but majors on Bruce Springsteen, the Stones, the Eagles, Rod Stewart, the Beatles and the like. In fact, he wishes to tell of a couple of highlights, one of which was the opening night in Boston, Mass. of the Stones "40 Licks" tour, the other an RNIB Dinner at the Dorchester seeing Rod Stewart entertain 400 guests. Some night he says.

So there we have it. A multi-faceted, generous natured, big hearted man, in so many ways ideal for this important role for a second time as President of our Charity. He considers himself lucky to have been elected to this post and to have worked in an Industry that prizes both hard work and good fun. We wish him a good and successful year.

Margaret Curle

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH 2015 IN THE PARK PLAZA RIVERBANK HOTEL, 18 ALBERT EMBANKMENT, LONDON SE1 7TJ COMMENCING AT 11.00 AM

The President, Alan Badcock took the chair. There were 20 members in attendance.

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7th March 2014 were proposed by J Martin, seconded by J Piggott and unanimously approved.

2. The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported on his year of office.

3. Apologies for Absence were recorded from: J Garlick, J Perry, B Kelly, A Heyer, K Dewey, L Scott, C Diacon, Mrs J Bolton, M Fry, G Fowler, O Davis, C Duncan, D Hesketh, D Houseman.

4. Presentation of Accounts for the period 1st January 2014 to 31st December 2014. Phil Carr presented the Accounts.

The adoption of the Accounts was then proposed by B Fowler, seconded by M Gee and carried unanimously.

Phil Carr thanked John Garlick, who was unable to be present, for his enormous help with the Accounts.

5. Election of Directors

The President announced that it was the Committee's recommendation that Andy Thompson be elected President for 2015. This was proposed by S Mason, seconded by N Gee and unanimously approved.

Alan Badcock then invested Andy Thompson with the Badge of Office. The new President thanked the meeting and was warmly applauded.

Andy Thompson then took the Chair. His first duty was to announce that it was the Committee's recommendation that Nick Gee become Vice President for 2014. This was proposed by P Bothwick, seconded by S Mason and unanimously approved. Andy Thompson then invested Nick Gee with the Vice President's Badge.

The appointment of the Treasurer Phil Carr was proposed by B Fowler, seconded by M Eustace and unanimously approved.

The appointment of the Secretary Mrs Anne James was proposed by M Eustace seconded by J Martin and unanimously approved.

According to the Articles of Association the longest serving Elected Director has to retire but is eligible to stand for re-election. Barry Fowler however was not standing for re-election but Peter Bothwick and Andy Thompson remained as the two Elected Directors. Barry was thanked for all his efforts in this role. At this point Andy Thompson announced that following a recommendation from the Board Barry Fowler was to be awarded Life Membership of PICT in recognition of his services to PICT. This was warmly endorsed by those present at the meeting.

6. Report on Benevolent Fund Distribution by Andy Thompson. Andy reported that there had been no changes to those receiving help. Two requests had been received. One had been accepted but the other had not met the requirements of the Trust. £7,695 had been donated in 2014, £3,000 of which had been to the Stationers' Foundation's Educational Projects. A generous monthly donation from PaperlinX had been received during 2014. However the Trust needs to find more people to help and this is the aim for 2015 and ways to do this will be announced at the Lunch later today. The Trust were planning to email a questionnaire to all companies to make everyone aware of what the Trust does. General discussion then took place. Stephen Mason suggested that the questionnaire needed to clarify who could qualify for help. Joe Piggott raised the point that people retiring in 10 years time would probably be in need of help so the Trust may need to look further ahead. Geoff Poole stated finding people to help had always been a problem.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am.



What we do best, being convivial

LPS Lunch - 30th April 2015

It is good to report another well attended Lunch at the Boot & Flogger wine bar in Redcross Way, Southwark. We had 59 responses and 30 attendees. All of this makes us optimistic for the future of this self-funding social society born from the ashes of the old London Pride Society.

It began at noon with a brief meeting of the few of us that run this event namely Owen Davies, Mike Rust, Bev Steele and John Garlick. John has taken over the role of Treasurer, in truth not too onerous a task these days I think. We were so pleased to see him back in the fold following the passing of his wife Doris in January. Good to see you John and welcome back.

The attendees were called down from the bar upstairs to join us at a single long table making just enough room, maybe a bit tight for some of us but all very "clubby" and perfect in so many ways. We had a "first timer" with us namely Jonathan Tame. Welcome to you Jonathan.

Lunch was steak and kidney pie (not pudding as is slightly more traditional) but delicious nonetheless with a half bottle of wine each.

The "order of service", as Owen calls it, was a welcome toast from Mike Rust followed by the starter, then "Absent Friends" from Alan Francis. Following the main course David Cole clambered to his feet to propose a toast to The London Pride Luncheon Club. It was all very heartfelt and poignant.

Despite the rather gloomy aspect of the Paper Trade today the folk here seemed not to want to go home, many of them moving into the closed yard just outside our downstairs room sitting at tables sipping port, coffees, whatever, bathed in glorious evening sunshine. A memorable London affair.

Thursday November 5th is the date for our next Lunch, 12.30pm, same venue. Do put this date in to your diaries as the November Lunch is the busier one. Early knowledge of your wish to join us would be appreciated as seating is a limiting factor.

Bev Steele



Mike Rust's welcoming toast

RIB VALLEY

– Thursday 19th March 2015

Eight members and one guest met beside Millennium Lake at the Rib Valley Lakes in Ware, Hertfordshire, on a day that is best described as “raw” - grey cloud and a very chilly wind kept us muffled up all day and some might say that the fish were doing likewise!

When I arrived at 8.30, Keith Huxtable and his guest were already fishing and Alan Badcock was tackling up thus showing how keen anglers can be, having travelled from Ipswich and Worthing respectively. I like to meet and greet people at our outings so started fishing at the lodge end close to the road ready to intercept those who arrived later. It wasn't long before I hooked a lively Rainbow Trout, which turned out to be a good plateful at just over 2lb – strange that years after the paper industry went metric we are still dealing in good old pounds and ounces!

However, for a long time it appeared that this was a lucky strike because no other success was being reported, even after handing out my successful fly pattern to other members. Then both Alan and David Gould landed fish, but the excitement was short lived as no others were caught before lunch.

Fly fishing is very much an individual sport so it is always nice to meet up for a bite to eat at lunchtime and perhaps due to the

weather, this was the first time I can remember when all the party came together for a natter in the lodge.

It was also an opportunity for Alan Badcock, immediate Past President, to award the Monk Trophy to Keith Huxtable for his success in 2014. The trophy is won by combining the weight and the number of fish caught over all the years' outings, hopefully rewarding skill and commitment rather than luck.

After our short lunch break, several people reported losing fish having hooked them briefly, which might be put down to the fact that the fish 'wise-up' after being hooked and released back into the lake. Late in the day, Gerry Overy went to the far end of the lake and fishing into the strong wind managed to land three and lose another, thus showing that determination pays off.

Undoubtedly, the star on the day was Tony Spicer, a life-long coarse angler who was trying his hand at fly-fishing for only the third time. Using a rubber blood worm, he managed to out-fish us all by landing three Rainbows, two of which were released back into the lake.

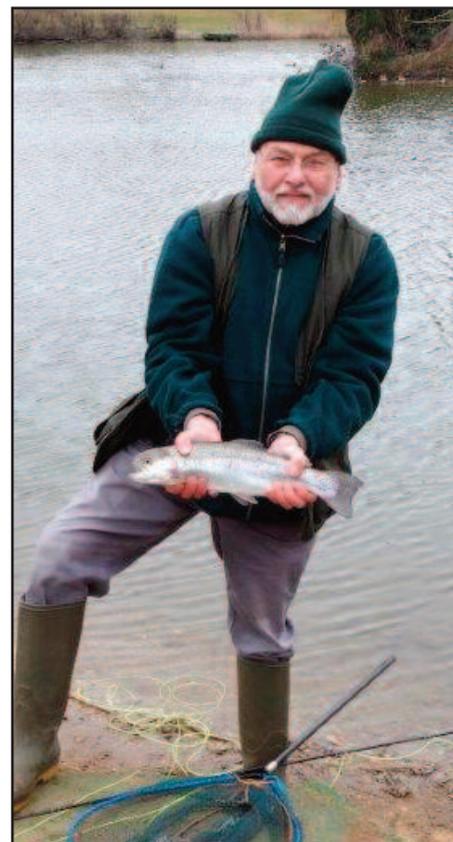
So ended an enjoyable day and hopefully, by the next time we meet at Frensham on 21st May, it will be a degree or two warmer.



Alan Badcock presenting the Monk Trophy to Keith Huxtable



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Tony Spicer with one of his Rainbows

Frensham Lakes

- Thursday 21st May 2015

Our numbers were rather depleted due to illness and trade problems, but my car did make it this year to meet and greet the other five anglers. In a way it was fortunate that we didn't have more because the most glorious day had brought out a large number of regulars as well as people just calling in on the off chance.

Frensham always fishes well and today was no exception with everyone catching their quota and more, which are returned to fight another day. Past President, Alan Badcock, led the way with a total of five fish, with Robert Taylor and me each taking four. However, numbers really don't matter on such a beautiful day when we were able to fish in shirtsleeves. With six small lakes to choose from there is always opportunity to roam around enjoying both a natter with

other anglers and the abundant bird life that thrives in the woods surrounding the lakes.

We all met up for lunch, which was eaten "en plein air" at a picnic table and were all happy whiling away an hour or so basking in the sunshine catching up on all the news.

Many of us had travelled long distances to enjoy this event, so the afternoon was rather curtailed by people wanting to avoid the traffic, but it still enabled a few more fish to be caught – a great day, sadly missed by too many members!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015

Friday 16th October 2015 – RIVER TEST , Romsey, Hants

Thursday 5th November 2015 – COLTSFORD MILL, Oxted, Surrey

paper appreciation course

The popular Paper Appreciation Courses are still being run by Tim Bowler through his company Focal Strength. The next course will be held at James Croppers in Kendal, Cumbria on **Wednesday 4th November 2015**.

The key objective of this one day course is not to produce budding papermakers, but for the delegates to better understand the attributes of the various grades and what they bring to the end products. A recent participant, Hannah Green of Antalis, said: "This course will help me focus more on the end-users' requirements – customer first!" and another delegate, Paneet Hoonjan of Fedrigoni UK, said: "Fantastic. Enjoyed my day and will definitely recommend."

For further information on the paper courses please contact Tim Bowler on 0115 960 9595
e-mail: trb@focalstrength.co.uk; www.focalstrength.co.uk

Margaret Curle



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SPRING MEETING

Reigate Hill Golf Club - 12th May 2015

This was our first visit to this course, designed by David Williams as a 6270yd SSS 71 challenge. He was obviously happy to work with a rolling countryside aspect having also designed Kit Kat's home course at Westerham. The Club is also host to The Surrey Golf Lab, with the short game area designed by Paul Casey. Sadly not many of our Shanks' members took advantage of the "Trackman Launch Monitor Analysis" available in the Golf Lab before teeing off, which was probably a wise decision!

As a precursor to the day the chance to interview the local German born Tory MP, Crispin Blunt, was too good to miss, especially as he had been returned to Parliament the week before with an increased majority, with UKIP coming a distant second. Surprisingly he didn't want to discuss his decision to confront his homosexuality after 20 years of marriage, and fathering two children, and only wanted to talk about politics and golf. The former was just boring so we concentrated on his main contact with the great game (golf). This turned out to be his niece, the actress Emily Blunt, who thinks golf is "cool" and keeps a special wardrobe for this purpose. Naturally very good news for him that UKIP didn't win, for obvious reasons.

With regard to "a special wardrobe" it was extremely pleasant to see Mike Gee turning up wearing the latest designer shorts with matching socks and shirt. A reminder to the other members that although our events should be taken as a serious test of golfing ability, they can also be used as a fashion statement.

Twelve members arrived for bacon baguettes and coffee and were then persuaded to cancel all previous appointments and stay for a round of golf. We were extremely pleased to welcome the arrival of a new member - Paul "Cut Size" Rossiter - who somehow managed to obtain an invitation, even after confirming that he played off 12 (albeit at Southend Pitch & Putt). More members were expected but, in addition to the usual unacceptable excuses for non attendance, it was thought that several may have turned up at nearby Reigate Heath Golf Club, in the belief that there was only one RHGC in the area!

Eventually four groups of three were sent off in various combinations of old, young, able and feeble and were confronted with a bright, sunny, breezy afternoon, with the course in immaculate condition. The adjacent M25 was a noisy distraction for most of the front nine, and geese with their goslings for most of the back nine, but this didn't detract from the standard of golf (how could it!). Goslings can actually



Colin Spear, Alan Piper & Chris Godfrey

walk, feed and swim within 24 hours of hatching, creating a connection with our golfers, who normally do this within 24 minutes of teeing off, depending on how much water they find!

At this point it should be mentioned that somehow "Kit Kat" Kerlogue forgot to buy any Kit Kats. He was therefore ordered to "Take A Break" and was sent back to the club house shop to retrieve the situation. This senior moment should be noted for future reference, when his contract comes up for renewal (from PICT and Rowntrees).

"Cut Size" Rossiter eventually confessed that he actually plays off 12 inches, and therefore greatly exceeded expectations when his opening drive managed to fly slightly further than the length of a sheet of A3 (perhaps the extra length was gained by the RHGC being 235 metres above sea level). Nevertheless, later in the day, he was properly awarded the Steve Beckett Trophy, for shot (clot) of the day, by our esteemed Captain, "Faldo" Bothwick. As an aside, the name "Faldo" originates from a medieval phrase - "fol de rol" - given to a person who liked to "sport" and was not much given to work. Good old Nick!



Alan Badcock & Barry Gregory – third team member Bob "Commodore" Green is taking the photo!



Chris Bell awarded the Syd Humphries Trophy

Winner of the Yellow Ball competition was Team B, consisting of Chris Bell, "12 inch" Rossiter and Kit Kat. This was awarded (by Kit Kat) seemingly on the basis of a vote rather than for golfing expertise (perhaps Chris Blunt would have been a worthy winner?). Chris Bell added to his trophy cabinet by rightfully being awarded the Syd Humphries Trophy, for the best round of the day, with a Stableford score just short of bandit territory. No doubt his handicap will be reviewed before the Autumn meeting, but in the meantime, well done Chris! (fol de rol?).

The day was rounded off with a fine curry meal (someone mentioned Vesta) but we missed out on the Angel Delight and finished off with a fruit crumble and custard.

On behalf of PICT and Shanksers of the day, past President, Alan "Sailor" Badcock thanked Kit Kat for another well organised event and confirmed how much his efforts are appreciated by all concerned. Also in this respect a healthy profit of £154.20 was made on the day for the PICT fund.

Last and certainly not least, a get well card was signed by all and sent to Bev Steele with our best wishes for a speedy recovery from an ongoing illness. Bev has been greatly missed at Shanksers events and we look forward to seeing him at the Autumn meeting

Commodore Bob Green



Mike Gee, Martin Triggs & our Captain ("Faldo" Bothwick)



Hon Sec ("Kit Kat") checking scores, along with our Captain and Chris Godfrey

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY 2015

TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER

at Flackwell Heath Golf Club,
near High Wycombe

www.fhgc.co.uk

Meet at 12.00 noon for coffee and sausage bap; tee off 1.00pm;
2 course dinner at approx 6.30pm; and away by 9.00pm.

Cost £55.00 per head

Contact Mike "Kit Kat" Kerlogue if you would like to join or for
further details.



The winning team - Kit Kat , Chris Bell & Paul Rossiter

Following the success of previous Golf Days, the PICT Charity Golf Tournament was held on Thursday 4th June 2015 and played at Rothley Park Golf Club, Rothley, Leicestershire.

Bacon rolls and coffee greeted the players before they tee'd off. The 18 holes was followed by a buffet lunch and prize giving. Winners of the Griffin Trophy was the Sappi Team.

As always the condition of the course at Rothley Park was excellent and so was the catering! The day raised £851.48 for PICT.

Next year's tournament will once again be held at Rothley Park, so if you are interested in putting a team into this golfing event contact Fred Haines - fred_haines@fedrigoni.co.uk



Secretary: John Victoros
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Tennis secretary John Victoros confirms the next tennis tournament will be held on Thursday 24th September 2015. It will take place at the Northampton County Lawn Tennis Club, Church Way, Weston Favell NN3 3BX.

The day will begin with a meet and greet from 9.15 -10am with coffee and biscuits, lunch at 1.00pm and rounding off with a presentation in the bar (or outside if the weather is good) at around 6.30pm. If you would like to join in and enrol for this year's PICT Tennis Tournaments with or without a partner (we will find you one!) Please send an email to john.vic@paper.co.uk

tennis

Secretary Mike Robertson has informed us that following the demise of PaperlinX, this section has lost one of its teams. However, he is hoping to find a way to arrange a cricket match early September, but nothing has been firmed up yet.

So if anyone out there fancies becoming the next Ian Botham or Stuart Broad of the paper industry – please do contact Mike and make yourself available for selection. Or better still if your company could put a team together – why not contact Mike to discuss.



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cricket

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this, our sixth, Paper Industry Charitable Trust AGM, thank you for attending.

It only seems like yesterday I was sitting here nervously waiting with some trepidation to be invested as President. Whilst I was somewhat daunted by the responsibility I was about to take on, I was also very much looking forward to carrying out my duties, especially attending the various sporting functions. And yet here I am already 12 months down the line, about to pass the baton on to a most worthy successor.

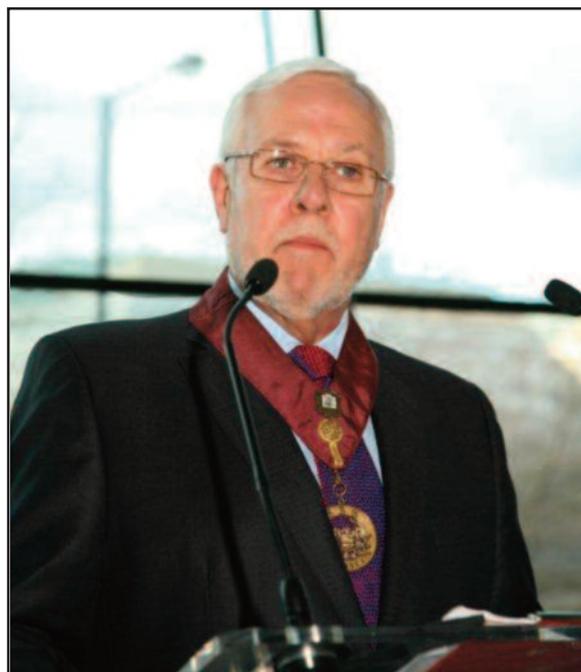
So what of 2014? Throughout Europe, all economies, still struggling to recover from the 2007/2008 Global market collapse, continue to experience difficult and challenging trading conditions. We are all witnessing the damage that uncertainty and indecision can breed with opportunistic leaders endeavouring to create further upset and turmoil between the leading nations, yet again bringing potential disharmony to the World. The heart moving Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, display of ceramic poppies at The Tower of London in remembrance of the outbreak of WW1 recognising the sacrifice made by 888,246 service personnel, was a shocking but poignant reminder. Despite a century separating World War 1 and the first Invictus Games, lessons have not been learnt and World peace is still an uncertainty.

Whilst the economic signals are not so discouraging here in the UK, our industry continues to experience consolidations and closures. These testing trading conditions and consolidations provide considerable challenges for the Charity. With companies reluctantly being forced to reduce their expenditure greatly influences and reduces our ability to attract younger members into PICT. However, there are encouraging signs of improvements in profitability, but any lack of confidence and absence of good sound management could still breed uncertainty and negative thinking, all of which could prove counterproductive.

There does, however, appear to be renewed optimism gathering pace in the print sector but the recent trend for increase in advertising revenue in print will need to be sustained. The media industry's body ABC reports: "A concerning decline in the traditionally safe Women's Weeklies, Life Style as well as Health & Beauty magazines", but in contrast it also reports: "Encouraging and positive growth in sports interest publications such as golf, cycling, aviation, holiday and travel, DIY, and motoring, with women's slimming and cookery and kitchen magazines" all showing some positive growth. Furthermore, with the packaging sector still growing strongly, there is every good reason for much optimism.

So what of PICT and my year in office? The results of our 2014 Annual Charity Lunch were encouraging with many compliments being received on the format and more particularly the Thames Suite location and the extensive views it offers, thankfully putting behind us the unfortunate episodes which, albeit totally being beyond our control, marred our 2013 Luncheon.

Maintaining a positive note there are many people I need to thank. A special note of thanks to our newly appointed Trustees, Peter Bothwick and Andy Thompson, who have been very active again this year, as will be outlined by Andy shortly. I must yet again also loudly praise and applaud the activity of our unsung heroes, the Sports Secretaries.



Having had the opportunity throughout my year in office to attend most of the sporting functions, all of which were strongly supported I may add, I cannot sing their praises enough. They quietly go about their business constantly promoting and encouraging support for PICT. For that I extend not only my personal thanks but also the thanks and appreciation of the PICT Board and Committee for their individual dedication and commitment. A special note of gratitude must also go to Bev Steele who after almost seven years has stood down as honorary editor of our magazine *The Bigger Picture*, handing over his quill pen to Margaret Curle. Thank you Bev for providing us with consistently great issues, your invaluable contribution has been simply immense. We, of course, wish Margaret every success and considerable enjoyment in her new role, we know she will be successful.

Finally, I will be failing in my responsibilities if I did not extend warmest thanks and appreciation to our secretary Anne James. Anne, manages, nudges and cajoles us, in her inimitable style, without any complaint and skilfully brings the entire structure together. Over many years she has dealt with a wide variety of Presidential styles, differing characters not forgetting some massaged ego's, and must be congratulated in surviving through them all. Thank you Anne for all the support you have given me during this past 12 months.

Before I close may I again mention the 200 Club, which does provide much needed income for PICT. If you are keen to show your support and wish to join us please speak to a committee member or ask Anne for an application form.

In closing, may I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to everyone that has supported and guided me through my year in office, it has been an honour and a privilege. Thank you all!

Alan Badcock



Frogmore Paper Mill's Beater House from the River Gade

As mentioned in the last newsletter, even though I am no longer at The Paper Trail, I promised that I would keep you all up-to-date as to the goings on at this historic visitor centre – site of the world's first mechanised paper machine. In this respect, I contacted Jacky Bennett, The Paper Trail's now Co-Chair of Trustees, and this is what she reported.

In June, the Apsley Paper Trail Trustees were pleased that one of their number, Derek Pullen, agreed to share the responsibility of chairing the Trust with Jacky Bennett. "This added support has been welcomed particularly at this time," she explained.

As you may know, in 2013 Apsley Paper Trail decided to sell undeveloped brown-field land at the Apsley Mills site, which was contributing nothing to the charity, in order to make investments, which would support the charity's objectives and provide a positive cash-flow.

When it was agreed to sell the land several potential purchasers put the value at about £2million. Dacorum Borough Council, as Frogmore Paper Mill's landlord, was selected as a 'reliable buyer' and the contract involved a first payment of 60% of the value, followed by a second payment of 40% when the Trust had obtained Outline Planning Permission for building affordable homes on the site. The Trust has experienced many delays, hurdles, and finally, a refusal, while striving to obtain planning permission from Dacorum Borough Council.

This has forced the charity to make six members of staff at Frogmore Paper Mill redundant. This drastic step has had to be taken as a direct consequence of the charity not receiving the expected payment from Dacorum Borough Council. "We are devastated that we will have to lose such loyal and experienced staff," said Jacky Bennett.

The Trustees hope that it will still be possible to receive the second payment from Dacorum Borough Council, but this will be difficult given a deadline in the contract of November 2015. If received, that money will be invested to enhance the visitor experience, further grow visitor numbers, and improve cash-flow. It was also hoped that this additional cash would act as match funding for grant applications, which would represent inward investment into Dacorum's property.

Co-Chair of the Trust, Derek Pullen, said: "As one of hundreds of volunteers who have given many thousands of hours to maintain and grow this Dacorum heritage site of world-wide significance... it would be good to see support from Dacorum Borough Council for all that volunteer effort rather than the unethical behaviour I have seen. The Council could recognise the volunteer commitment and the delays that it has caused by, for example, postponing the contract deadline beyond November."

However, despite this set-back, Frogmore Paper Mill and the Visitor Centre are still operating with help from volunteers. Forthcoming events include the Heritage Fire Brigade Open Day on 6th September, Artists at The Paper Trail Exhibition from 12th – 29th September, Scarenation's Halloween Extravaganza during Halloween week, and the Christmas Fair on 29th November.

Over the summer months, The Paper Trail's Heritage Fire Brigade has been out and about promoting The Paper Trail at various events – but unfortunately not as many as usual due to the inclement weather. However, the 1938 Dennis Ace Fire Engine along with its enthusiastic band of volunteer firemen, did attend the Bushey World War II Re-enactment weekend in April, and the St Albans Steam Rally at the end of May. Unfortunately the Dacorum Steam Rally was cancelled due to waterlogged fields after the heavy rain a day or so before the event.

I think that's all the news for now and hopefully my update from The Paper Trail later in the year will be a little brighter. Until then.

Margaret Curle



1938 Dennis Ace Fire Engine

easy reference

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