



## CORDIES CHRONICLE

### *The ties that bind*

VOL 2 NO. 2

August 2009

Dear Cords,

After the excitement of the first term, the second term settled down to a quieter pace. Summer turned to Autumn and the trees changed to the most wonderful array of reds and golds. The Royal Show and Art in the Park came and went and winter began to take grip – frosty cold nights with warm days and clear skies. The rugby season has finished and we are now into the third term and hockey, school shoes and long socks! – Remember the days?

At the start of the third term, The ‘Old Boys’ office was once again on the move. I’m beginning to feel like a gypsy! I have informed the powers that be that under no circumstances will the office be moving again and am hastily putting up pictures and battening down the hatches! Come and see the office – we are now situated in the old Reception office in the Brick Quad. It is right at the heart of the school with the sound of boys ringing around and the old School bell clanging noisily at regular intervals. Masters voices boom out, the lunchtime line is brought to order before trailing off to the dining room. I am hoping to encourage the boys to drop by (perhaps bribed by the promise of a Fizz pop!) to leaf through the photograph albums, laugh at old reports and to generally feel at ease in this room of school history – soon the Grade 7’s will be part of that history – but I want them to know that this does not mean they are not part of the Cordwalles present and the future.

The door is always open – do drop by.

## UK2 Reunion – London Friday 19th June 2009



I am delighted to report that the second Annual UK Old Boys dinner took place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June in London and was generously hosted once again, by Northcote Lodge Prep School ([www.northcotelodge.co.uk](http://www.northcotelodge.co.uk))

Everyone who attended was delighted that Simon Weaver was in town at the conclusion of his long leave trip to the UK to visit 14 prep schools as part of his report back programme to ISASA.

*Back Row: Greville Hast ('64) John Hansford (Headmaster Northcote Lodge) Chris Goodyer ('64)*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Simon Weaver ('75 & Headmaster) Richard Tucker ('80) Philip Abbott ('64)*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Angus Hathorn ('78) Nick Rogers ('88) John Laughton ('44)*

*4<sup>th</sup> Row Andrew Prince ('89) Walter Mitchell-Inness ('97) John Hamilton ('46) Justine Goodyer Lance Penny (ex staff) Alex Rice ('95)*

*Front Row: John Gold (2003) Derek de Goede (2003) Michael Vamdell ('93) Tony Wadley ('83) Ann Laughton Nella Lamb Rowena Tucker Julie Reed (ex staff)*

28 Old boys, past members of staff and Boarder Masters ranging from 1944 to 2003 gathered for a convivial evening commencing with drinks followed by a delicious dinner provided once again by Anna Duttson ([www.annaduttson-events.co.uk](http://www.annaduttson-events.co.uk)) John Hamilton and his wife Wizz were among the guests, as was John Laughton (Class of '44) and his wife Ann. John Laughton was at the first UK reunion and was in South Africa at the start of the year and attended the re-launch of Old Boys here at Cordwalles. I think this speaks volumes for the success of these events and for the affection in which Cordwalles is held. Greville Hast, Chris Goodyer and Philip Abbott were delighted to meet up having not been together in the same place since 1965!

Simon Weaver gave a power point presentation which not only showed these Old Boys the physical changes that have taken place at School over the last couple of years but also explained why it was felt necessary to change the school badge and to give it a story. All the changes were met with unanimous approval.

Conversation in the early part of the evening turned to the idea of a 'Golf Day' with boys from other SA prep schools currently living in the UK. Nick Rogers (Class of '88) and Michael Vamdell (Class of '94) both mentioned there are a lot of Clifton, Nottingham Road Old Boys living in the UK so I will be liaising with the newly formed Clifton NR Old Boys Club to see what we can arrange. Watch this space! Thanks to everyone who came to the reunion with special thanks to Chris & Justine Goodyer for travelling from Dublin especially for the evening.

**Hi Charlotte**

**Thanks for organising the Old Boys dinner. I had a fabulous time, as did everyone I spoke to.**

**Best regards**

**Tony Wadley (Class of '83)**

## STAFF NEWS – The End of an Era!

We are very sad to report that four characters of Cordwalles are leaving us at the end of the year to follow new paths.



Many of you will be aware that **Mark Whitelaw**, who has been with Cordwalles since 1996, is leaving us to take up his role as Headmaster of WHPS, Pretoria and the Old Boys' Office would like to extend its congratulations to Mark and to wish him and his family every success for the future. Many boys during this period will remember Mark Whitelaw both as Sports Director and SecondMaster, chief of the 100 Club and a passionate Ambassador of all things Cordwalles. The Old Boys office would like to put together a gift for Mark in the form of an album of photos and memories and letters from as many Old Boys, parents, Boarder Masters and members of Staff, who would like to contribute. This is intended to be a **surprise** gift and all contributions should be sent to:

Charlotte Usher, Old Boys Office, Private Bag 9063, Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu Natal 3200. Alternatively

contributions can be e-mailed to [oldboys@cordwalles.co.za](mailto:oldboys@cordwalles.co.za)

Mark's departure leaves a huge hole at Cordwalles because he takes with him his wife, **Louise**, one of our Grade 4 teachers and their two sons, Brett & Ross who are in Grades 5 & 3 respectively.

Louise joined Cordwalles in 2002 and has been a much loved and respected teacher and friend to the boys and parents who have been through her class.

Brett & Ross have been an integral part of the school and will much missed by all their friends.



After a record 31 years, **Sister Gayle Bastard** is retiring from looking after the boys of Cordwalles to enjoy more time with her family. Her contribution to the school and to the lives of the many boys who have passed through her care, cannot be measured. Gayle, accompanied by Candy, her faithful pooch, is a huge character around the school and has been an endless fount of information to me here in the Old Boys Office. She remembers each and every boy who has been here often throwing in a story or two along the way.

The Old Boys Office wishes Gayle a long and happy retirement. She will be sorely missed by the boys who are here and by her many friends amongst staff and parents. She heads off to enjoy time with her family and grandchildren, but I have no doubt we will see Gayle here at many functions in the future.

**Sharon Scott**, our Junior Primary HOD and Grade 2 teacher has resigned with effect from the end of the year as her family are emigrating to New Zealand. This is a great loss to Cordwalles. Sharon has led the Junior Primary phase with vision, care and love. The boys in her care have always been her primary concern and the department has blossomed under her leadership. She has been a loyal and valued member of the staff and we as a school are going to miss her terribly.



As with Mark, the Old Boys Office would like to put together similar gifts for Louise, Gayle and Sharon and letters, photos and comments should be sent to me here at Charlotte Usher, Cordwalles Old Boys Private Bag 9063, KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg, 3200 or e-mailed to [oldboys@cordwalles.co.za](mailto:oldboys@cordwalles.co.za)

I look forward to being swamped with memories of your time with these three special people. Contributions should be with the office by the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in order that the gifts can be compiled before the end of the year. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail or telephone: 0027 33 342 3077. **PLEASE REMEMBER THESE ARE SURPRISE GIFTS and not to mention them to anyone other than Charlotte in the Old Boys Office.**

#### **A Visitor came calling in August**

We received a welcome surprise visit from **Roy Currie** a member of the **Class of '65**. Roy had been living in the UK for some years but returned to the African continent and is currently living in Zambia. We were delighted to welcome Roy and his wife and to show them round the grounds.



#### **CORDIES BOYS - HIGH SCHOOL NEWS**

Congratulations go to some of our Old Boys currently at Michaelhouse:

##### **Rugby:**

Cilliers Trophy for Most Valuable Player : **Reef Nakin (Class of 2004)**

Davidson Trophy for Most Improved Player : **Andrew Craib (Class of 2004)**

##### **Theatre Awards:**

F S Bishop Memorial Trophy for Best Actor : **Sanda Shandu (Class of 2004)**

Van Velden Trophy for Greatest Contribution to Performing Arts : **Sanda Shandu**



**Joel Bronner (Class of 2005)** currently at Martizburg College, participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the regional WFO Motorcycle Enduro held at Pomeroy, KZN.

**Joel** was on a KTM125EXC and finished a credible third in the Regional Junior class completing three laps in 5:10:27 hours. The event was tough in testing weather conditions, and was a good build-up to the National Enduro event which takes place in Champagne Valley. Well done Joel.

**Matthew Shaw (Class of 2004)** at Maritzburg College, competed in the Canoe Sprint World Championships in Moscow.

**Hilton College Exchange Programme:** Each year a number of boys are chosen by a selection process, to represent Hilton abroad at various schools in countries such as the UK, USA, Australia and Germany. This year we are proud to announce that two Cordwalles OB's have been chosen.



**Marc Train** (Class of 2006) will be spending the fourth term of this year at **Woodberry Forest**, Virginia, USA. Like Hilton, Woodberry Forest is a boys only boarding school and was founded in 1889. The school is situated in Madison County near to Charlottesville and Washington DC([www.woodberry.org](http://www.woodberry.org))

**Lloyd Mercer** (Class of 2006) will be heading to **Strathallan School**, Perthshire, Scotland which is located about 45 minutes north of Edinburgh and 10 miles from Perth. Strathallan is a co-ed school founded in 1913, so like Cordwalles it is approaching its Centenary. ([www.strathallan.co.uk](http://www.strathallan.co.uk))

We are proud of you boys and wish you well in your forthcoming adventures. We would love to hear how you get on when you return.



**Darryn Wilson (Class of 2002)** Parents, Ian and Michele Wilson recently sent in this photo and letter about Darryn  
From the **Headquarters, Rifleman Infantry, England**



Rifleman **Darryn Wilson** has earned a top award after finishing his army training. Darryn, 19, from Maritzburg, South Africa, has successfully completed the 26 week Combat Infantryman's Course at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, North Yorkshire. His platoon commander, Captain Toby Harris, said: "Rifleman Wilson is undoubtedly a worthy winner of this award. He has maintained a high level of performance throughout the course, and is definitely at the start of what should be a fantastic career. What makes his performance all the more impressive is that despite suffering from a bout of pneumonia, he refused to yield and cracked on with training. This is exactly the kind of attitude and determination we look for in our young Riflemen."

Darryn received his award at the pass out parade ceremony at the Infantry Training Centre on 17 April with Ian and Michele there to witness his success. After some well earned leave, Darryn will be posted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Rifles in Edinburgh where, among other duties, he will continue his training as a light role infanteer. Darryn is expecting to be posted to Afghanistan in September/October.

The Old Boys office sends Darryn congratulations on his wonderful achievement and best wishes for his tour of duty.

**Other Old Boys** currently on tours of duty in Afghanistan.

**Wayne Davidson** – Class of 1988. Wayne is currently on his second tour of duty in Helmand Province. Wayne came to the UK reunion last year.

**Andrew Downes** – Class of 1980 Andrew is with the Canadian Medical Corps and has had two tours of duty. Please keep these Old Boys in your thoughts and prayers.

**ROLL OF HONOUR Frank Hall 1912-2009** Frank was our oldest known old boy having been born 9 months after Cordwalles opened its gates in 1912.

Frank was here at school between 1925 and 1926. He started High School at Michaelhouse but later changed and went to DHS. A regular visitor to school in recent years & seen here with his second wife, Felicity. Frank had a cheeky and warm glint in his eye and enjoyed being surrounded by the boys. His last appearance at school was at Speech Day 2008, days before his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.



The Old Boys Club presented Frank with a bottle of whisky and Felicity with a bouquet of flowers. Our condolences go to Felicity and to Frank's children and grandchildren. We have lost a true friend of Cordwalles and a real link to the early days of school.

**Brian Frost OBE\*** May 1928 - June 2009



Brian was at Cordwalles between 1940 & 1941. After he left Michaelhouse he enrolled as an undergraduate in the Engineering Faculty of U.C.T. but his career path changed in 1949 when he met Brian Mansergh, a very well respected South African architect. Brian worked for him, first as a draughtsman and later in design, documentation and supervision of various commissions, both in this country and in the then Rhodesia.

Brian Mansergh died in the 1970's and left his Practice to Brian, who was appointed by the British Government as their official architect and representative in this country. This job gave him huge satisfaction and ultimately earned him an OBE\* in 1994. When asked about this he always modestly replied that it was merely for keeping his hands out of the till! In addition to this work, he also undertook the design and supervision of building many homes around Cape Town and he was fond of saying that he was very privileged to receive payment for doing something from which he derived enormous satisfaction. In 1980 the South African Council of Architects honoured Brian by granting him membership of their institute.

Brian leaves behind his second wife Colleen, his sons and grandchildren and we extend our condolences and best wishes at this time.



**OBE (Order of the British Empire)** The **Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** is a British order of chivalry established on 4 June 1917 by King George V. The Order includes five classes in civil and military divisions. It is an Honour presented by the reigning Monarch or his/her representative in a given country.

**Marie Steere** (seen centre here with Pixie van Heerden and Sister Gayle Bastard a few weeks before she died)



It was with deep sadness that in April the Cordwalles 'family' heard of the passing of Marie Steere, after a long illness bravely borne. Marie was a very warm, considerate and thoughtful lady. Always ready with a smile, her door was open to any visitor and she interested in everyone she met. Marie was involved with Cordwalles for many, many years, coming here as a bride and supporting her husband, John 'Monk', a master at the school for 38 years.

She taught extra Afrikaans and her kindness and care of the boys, especially those who came from other countries, was so appreciated.

At the first UK reunion, **Guy Rose** (Class of '58) fondly recalled singing in the choir at John & Marie's wedding in the School Chapel. He said that afterwards there was a reception outside in the grass quad – with a 'mountain' of sandwiches!

Through the generosity of John & Marie's children, Jeremy & Julie the Chapel has received a large wooden cross which now adorns the outside of the chapel as you enter the school grounds and below which is a bench. This is a wonderful and totally apt gift in memory of their parents and the Cordwalles Community extends many thanks.

### **WEBSITE**

The website is currently undergoing a revamp which will be ready shortly – I do urge all Old Boys to visit the site, update details and to keep in touch with what is going on here at school. All events and news will be listed on the website.

Please keep me updated with news, changes of contact details etc so that we can continue to keep you up to date.

### **OLD BOYS DAY 2010 – A date to Diarise**

Old Boys Day will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the day before the School's 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Please diarise this date and further details will follow.

Kind regards  
Charlotte Usher  
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