

Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums"

News Letter No 9
December 2005



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Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry Christmas Merry Christmas



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*Merry Christmas to everyone and welcome to the December's news letter. It's hard to believe that Christmas is now only a few weeks away, I do not know where the last several months have gone? It only seems like yesterday that we held our first practice evening, a really hot night I remember. Well it's been another busy month for the Corps of Drums. We are gradually getting closer to where we need to be ready for what I believe will be a very busy 2006 for the Corps of Drums. I must say that all members are working really hard and it is beginning to show. With the RMA marching practice which we held last month I think all members are now beginning to march as a unit and are also understanding the importance of presenting ourselves correctly. We also held the **4 PLUS 1** Sponsored Walk last month which was a great success (more on this later on). I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped us since we started the Corps of Drums. Although we still have a long way to go, if the help and support continues as it has so far then I think we should achieve our goals very quickly. I hope you enjoy the news letter and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Regards Mark*

The 4 PLUS 1 Sponsored Walk

November 5th saw members of the Corps of Drums, along with parent's, supporters and several dogs take part in the **4 PLUS 1** Sponsored Walk. The event was in aid of our uniform fund and it was held at Barossa Common. We all met at 1.45 p.m. and promptly set off at 2 p.m. with Tom Clay as our route leader. After the first hill was negotiated I had to revert back to childhood and ask if we were nearly there yet? We decided to walk for the first four miles and march for the last mile. Although we did encounter a small amount of rain the majority of the walk was dry which really helped us. When we got to the last mile, everyone was formed up and on the command of "By the Centre, Quick March" everyone stepped off together. I checked the marching several times and have to say that the only rank to keep their dressings and march in step were the three dogs at the back. However I do think that the dog leads did assist? We arrived back at our starting point at 3.55 p.m. which gave us enough time to have a well earned drink and a bag of crisps before everyone left. Although we are still getting the sponsor money in, we believe we would have raised in excess of £1,500 which is a brilliant result. *Well done to all participants.*

COMING SOON – SIDE DRUM DIPLOMA COURSE

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CHRISTMAS SHUT DOWN Dates

I think that everyone involved with the Corps of Drums could do with a good break at Christmas. We have all worked hard over the last few months, especially the members. Therefore, please note the following Christmas shut down dates.

Last practice evening will be **Monday 12th December**

We will resume on **Monday 9th January**

However, as mentioned, we have the Sandhurst Social Clubs "Old Folks Dinner" booked for Saturday 14th January so can all members ensure that they attend our practice evening on **Monday 9th January**. We will have to work hard on our first night back in preparation for the following Saturday's event.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Please note that the Christmas Raffle tickets are still on sale . You can buy them on any practice evening from Linda, Lorraine, Rose or Angie. We have various prizes (any prize donations would be appreciated) and the draw will be made on our last practice evening which is Monday 12th December. Please support the raffle as all proceeds will go towards further instruments that we need. Don't forget, as the National Lottery say, "you've got to be in it to win it"

DECEMBER COMPETITION

This month's competition is just one question

Q: *There are five Guards divisions within the British Army who have both a Corps of Drums and a full band. Name the five Guards divisions?*

If any of you watched this years Trooping the Colour would have seen all five on Parade for the Queens Birthday.

First correct answer drawn will win £5.00

NEXT YEARS OBJECTIVES

With 2005 coming to an end, we are now beginning to look at our objectives for 2006. We have made a very fast and successful start with the Corps of Drums. We have achieved a great deal over the last several months and we should all be proud of what we have done so far. However, as I have mentioned on many occasions, we must keep moving forward. As members of the Corps of Drums you need to carry on with the enthusiasm and commitment you have shown so far and I am sure that you will be amazed at the standard you will achieve with the support and encouragement of the Staff and Management Committee. So looking forward to 2006 what do we need to do to keep the momentum going? Well, we will continue to seek further financial support to hopefully achieve our total instrument and uniform wish list. Although we now have many instruments we still need to renew many of the drums as some of them are very old. We need to purchase further Bugles and also we need to raise enough money to get cases for all the instruments so we can adequately protect them during transit to the various events we will be undertaking. We will also need to continue to refine our uniform, this will mean purchasing Dress Cords, Badges and various other things which will add to our presentation, don't forget we not only have to play music and march we also have to look good. So as I learnt many years ago, if you sit still you get left behind and therefore the Staff and Management team will continue to do what ever is necessary to achieve our goals. If you think we have done well so far, just wait for 2006.

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CORPS OF DRUMS – DIARY OF EVENTS

Following on from last months news letter, please see below an up-dated Corps of Drums Diary of events. This has been up-dated this month to reflect the Corps of Drums “Thank you Concert”

Date:	Event:	Comments:
Thursday 1 st December 2005	Fair Trade evening	Selected Members only
Saturday 14 th January 2006 (evening)	SSC Old Folks Dinner	All members
Saturday 8th April 2006 (evening)	The Corps of Drums “Thank you Concert”	All members
Sunday 23 April 2006	St Georges Day Parade (RMA)	All members
Monday 29 th May 2006	Sandhurst Donkey Derby	All members
Saturday 3 rd June 2006	Freemasons Open Day	All members
Saturday 15 th July	RMA Freedom of the Borough	All members

I believe this list will grow over the next couple of months. I will also need to arrange for some extra practice sessions for some of these events and will notify you nearer the time. Full details on times etc will also be notified to all members as the event is coming up. It is very important when committing to events that I have a good understanding of which member can attend. Therefore please would all members and their parents check this list and please notify me if you are aware of any event that you will be unable to attend. *Thanks Mark*

Last Jokes for 2005

Q: What do you call a scared biscuit?

A Cowardy Custard Cream

Q: What do you call a telephone call from one vicar to another?

A Parson to Parson call

Q: What do you call the place where parrots make films?

PollyWood

NEWS LETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

Do you like the news letter? Well I think it is a good tool to keep everyone up to date with what is going on within the Corps of Drums. However it would be really good for the members to contribute in some way towards it. We had a great picture last month which was submitted by Saphie Young which was really good. What would you like to put forward for the news letter? It could be something that you think the other members may be interested in, or maybe something regarding the Corps of Drums? If you have seen a marching band recently and would like to do a little write up on what you thought of it? Do not forget that this is your news letter and any member contributions would be very much appreciated. If you have any ideas then please talk to me about them or e-mail me on sparkysaunders@supanet.com

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The 4 PLUS 1 Sponsored Walk – November 5th 2005



SIDE DRUM DIPLOMA COURSE

To encourage members of the Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums and to give them an opportunity to advance their side drumming skills, we will be running a Side Drum Diploma course which will cover both the ***Rudiments of Drumming*** and also ***Drum Care and Maintenance***. The course will commence in January 2006. This will be a four lesson course held over an eight week period. By spreading the lessons over this period it will give those participating two weeks between lessons to practice what they have been shown. This course will be the equivalent to a Grade 4 drumming standard. Please note that although this course will be open to all members, only those who have the

commitment to practice between lessons should enrol. I will advise and confirm dates in the near future but I can confirm that the lessons will be held between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoons. To pass this course those taking part will have to demonstrate both an ability to play what have been shown and also have a clear understanding of what they have learnt. All those passing will receive a Drummers badge which they can wear on their uniform in recognition of their achievement and also they will receive a certificate stating they have passed. ***Anyone interested should let me know as soon as possible. Regards Mark.***

Social events being planned

Although we have several events already booked for the Corps of Drums next year and I expect this list to grow, another area we are working on are some social events. We want to hold various social events for both members and also parents and supporters. We are trying to build an organisation where everyone connected feels part of it. Many of these will be fun nights and hopefully we can include events that everyone enjoys and hopefully will support. The only down side is that if we ever hold any form of disco/dance then you will be exposed to my dancing (I'm told that I'm like rubber on the dance floor) We hope to be able to announce some of the proposed events and dates early in the new year so please keep a look out in the news letter.

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