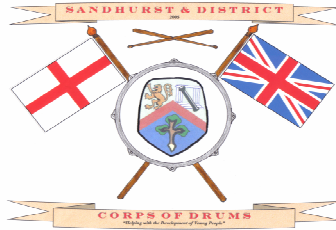


# Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums"

**News Letter No 8  
November 2005**



**Founded April 2005  
Registered Charity No  
1110329**

*Welcome to the Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums" November news letter. Since the October issue, things have moved on yet again within the Corps of Drums. We now have most of the instruments that have been on order although we are still awaiting delivery of the cases for them, our membership has now reached 28 and we have successfully undertaken our first official event. I still find it hard to believe the amount of support we have gained since we started. I mentioned at our Public Information evening back in June that I believe this type of activity can offer so much and I think our supporters can see the potential benefits we can offer to children and young people. Our attendance figures so far are very good; this is always a good sign as our members would not come back each week if they were not enjoying it. I am also very pleased with the progress we are making. This may not be apparent if you were to watch one of our practice evenings but I can assure you that considering we only started on August 8<sup>th</sup> we have come on in leaps and bounds. So, make a cup of tea, sit back and enjoy issue number 8. Best regards Mark.*

## **CORPS FIRST EVENT**

Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> saw the first official event for the Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums. We were invited to open the Make Poverty History day which was held at the Old Dean Youth centre in Camberley. As this was undertaken at an early stage for us, we took only a few of our members as our play list is still quite small. However the day went very well and everyone seemed to enjoy it. I have received the following thank you from Tish Mason who organised the event.

*Dear Sandhurst & District Corps of Drums,  
Thank you for getting us off to such a good start  
for the Make Poverty History event. Several people*

*said what a high standard of playing it was. I was very impressed by your discipline and timing. It made a rousing start to the day and put people in a good mood. The rest of the day went very well. The Mayor stayed for a long time. Lots of people came and everyone enjoyed themselves. I am sure that people will go away saying what a good time they had. I hope you get good publicity you deserve in the Camberley News. Thank you again, you were absolutely brilliant. Best regards Tish Mason –  
Camberley Make Poverty History Group.*

If this is the response we receive at each event we do then we should all be proud of ourselves.

## **The 4 plus 1 sponsored walk**

As mentioned to you in issue 7, we have been busy organising a sponsored walk to help raise money towards our uniform fund. We can now confirm that the **4 Plus 1 Sponsored Walk** will take place on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Barossa Common Camberley. We have issued sponsorship forms to all our members and hopefully they will all be able to take part in it. Our uniform cost is estimated at £4,600.00 and we are currently about £1400.00 short.

I am sure that this event will help get us closer to our target. You may be asking why we have called it the **4 Plus 1 Sponsored Walk**? Well we thought to make things a bit different and hopefully add some fun in to it that we would walk for 4 miles and then march as a unit for the remaining mile. If you would like to sponsor our members then please let them/us know as soon as possible, alternately if anyone would like to take part then contact me for a sponsorship form and full information of times etc.

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## **TRY TO PRACTICE EACH DAY**

I have spoken many times regarding practice in between Monday evening band sessions and how important it is to practice. Well here I am again to give a gentle reminder to why it is so important to do so.

If you think about a typical Monday evening at band, by the time you have arrived and signed in, the roll call has been taken and I have had a brief chat it is likely to be about 7.20 p.m. We then get the instruments out and by the time

we have sorted ourselves out it is about 7.30 p.m. We normally have a tuck break at about 8.10 p.m. and re-commence about 8.20 p.m. At about 8.45 p.m. we start to clear away ready for a brief chat at the end before you all go home. Therefore if you look at the actual practice time we are only achieving just over an hour a week. This is nowhere enough and that's why I need all members to practice in between the weekly sessions. As I have said to you before, we will only get as good as the time and effort we put in. So, please can you think of ways

you can build in to your day at least some practice time. Even if you can only do 10 minutes of concentrated practice per day then this will help as it gives an extra hour a week. Also you will find that as you develop your musical abilities then practice will become easier for you and when we get together on a Monday evening you will enjoy it a lot more. One final note, if any of you are unclear on what we would like you to practice then please call me and I will go over it on the phone with you.

### **Subscription – thank you**

On behalf of the Management Team, I would like to thank all parents for their prompt payment of member subscriptions. As mentioned previously it is vital for us to collect subscription as this is our main source of income to cover running costs. *Many thanks.*

### **First Members Contribution to News Letter**

I have received the first (of many I hope) contribution to the news letter. It is from Saphie Young who is learning the Bell-Lyre. Saphie was obviously inspired to draw this picture by my article some time ago about how I get an even sun tan when I am on holiday. I think she must have seen me as I've never told anyone I wear a baseball cap on holiday.



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## **OCTOBER COMPETITION WINNER?**

As we have had to get the November news letter out to you a bit earlier than usual this month, we will advise the winner of the October competition at the first available practice session which will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

## **DRUM ALLOCATION LIST**

Please would all drummers keep an eye on the notice board as I will be putting up a list shortly which will show which drum has been allocated for you to use. On each drum I have put a number on the bottom of the drum so all you need to do is look for your name on the list, see what drum number is against your name and then this will be the drum you use each week. This will work better once I have put the new drums in the band store which again should happen over the next couple of weeks. Any questions then please ask me.

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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 will hopefully be up-dated each month to show any new events that we will undertake.

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Event:</u></b>	<b><u>Comments:</u></b>
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2005	Fair Trade evening	Selected Members only
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2006 (evening)	SSC Old Folks Dinner	All members
Sunday 23 April 2006	St Georges Day Parade (RMA)	All members
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2006	Sandhurst Donkey Derby	All members
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2006	Freemasons Open Day	All members
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> 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*

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## **Corps of Drums – Fitting night**

I am hoping to take delivery of the new drum and bell lyre carriages over the next couple of weeks. Once this happens, we will need to spend part of a practice evening fitting each member with a carriage. These will also be identified with the members name so that each week you will use the same carriage. We will also show you how to keep the carriage clean and in tip-top condition. I only have a certain amount of new ones on order and therefore some members will have a slightly older one for a while. However we will work towards ordering some more new ones once we have sufficient funds to enable us to do this.

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## Mummy – Daddy Roll (Open to Close Roll)

For all drummers, we have showed you how to practice the Mummy – Daddy roll or to use its correct name the Open to Close roll. This is a brilliant practice method to help you improve your roll and to get it sounding smooth. You should always use this as one of your daily practice exercises. The information below is taken from the Royal Marines training manual.

**R = right hand L = left hand**

Always practice by starting slowly and gradually build up speed **without** breaking your rhythm. If you start to go wrong, stop and start again. Remember, if you can not play slowly you will never be able to play at the correct speed without making mistakes.

### OPEN TO CLOSE ROLL

To produce a close roll we use a rhythm termed 'Mummy – Daddy'. This consists of a series of double taps being played on each stick commencing with the right stick and gradually increasing in tempo until a close roll is produced.

*Start slowly and gradually increase speed*

The musical notation illustrates the 'Mummy – Daddy' roll exercise. It is presented in four staves. The first staff shows the initial rhythm: 'R R L L' followed by a repeat sign, and then 'R R L L R R L L' followed by a repeat sign. The second staff shows a series of double taps (beats) that gradually increase in density, followed by a repeat sign and three measures of a close roll. The third staff is labeled 'then gradually reduce speed' and shows a series of double taps that gradually decrease in density, followed by a repeat sign. The fourth staff shows a series of double taps that gradually decrease in density, followed by a repeat sign and three measures of a close roll.

The tempo at which the 'Mummy – Daddy' is commenced is the same as that of four quavers played in quick march tempo.

This exercise is the method used for teaching the beginner to produce a good close roll, and attention must be paid to see that all taps are of the same volume.

4-10

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## NOVEMBER COMPETITION

For this months competition you need to answer correctly the 3 questions below. If you have no idea, why not call another member of the Corps of Drums to see if they can help you? The first correct entry drawn will win £5.00 All entries must be returned to me by the end of November.

*Q: What is the Drum Majors Mace used for?*

*Q: What is the primary use of the Bass Drum?*

*Q: What was the primary use of a Bugle?*

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