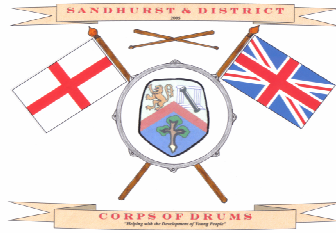


Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums"

**News Letter No 6
September 2005**



**Founded April 2005
Registered Charity No
1110329**

Welcome to the Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums" September News Letter No 6. After many months of preparation, August saw our first practice evening so we can now say that we are officially up and running. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new members and although we had a very busy first night I hope you all enjoyed the evening. As mentioned to you on the night, we have a lot of work to do and I believe that with our help and your commitment to practice, we will be able to build our new band quite quickly. Also as I mentioned on our first night, I believe and really want the Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums" to be around for many years to come and I hope that as you grow older you can remember back on our first night and say you were part of the Corps from the beginning. Good luck and let's get moving forward.

Regards Mark

WELCOME TO LEE SYMONS

For those of you who have not yet met him, I would like to introduce to you Lee Symons. Lee is an ex Devonshire and Dorset regiment drummer who is going to help us. Lee left the army 3 years ago and now works with the Metropolitan Police Force. While Lee was in the regiments Corps of Drums, he performed Public Duties at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. He will be able to assist in teaching us drum static displays and various other things which will improve our performances? Lee also has a CD which he plays lead tipper on and is happy to copy it for anyone interested. Please join me in saying Welcome to Lee.

AUGUST COMPETITION WINNER

The answers to the August competition were, (1) They are called Drag Ropes, they are hung beneath the drums that you see in military bands. (2) They were used many years ago to enable the drummers to carry the drum on their shoulders when they were not playing them.

The first correct answer that was drawn from those who entered the competition was XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX who will receive £5.00

Well done to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

First Event Booked

I have been approached and asked if the Corps of Drums would like to take part in a "Make Poverty History" day which is on Saturday 15th October 2005. I have provisionally agreed that we would be prepared to undertake this event as it will give us something to work towards. I am awaiting final conformation and will let you all know as soon as possible if we are going to take part or not. Please make a note in your diaries.

NEW INSTRUMENTS COMING THROUGH

After many months of being on order, we are now seeing some of the new instruments being delivered. The main hold up has been due to holidays and order back log from the instrument manufacturers. However, we hope to have taken delivery of all outstanding items by the end of September. Apologies for the delay.

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PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Now we are up and running we need to understand some of the things that we will have to do to enable us to become a Corps of Drums. Listed below are areas that we will need to work on over the coming weeks and months.

- Learning the basics of our instruments
- Learning 5 Tunes
- Basic Drill
- Learning to March as a Unit

There will be some of us that may not like certain aspects of this, however we have to learn these basics otherwise we will not progress. I would like you to practice at home the things that we will teach you. Don't forget, we only have 2 hours on a Monday evening to practice together so it is very important that you practice at home in between our group practice sessions. You will find that the more you practice the easier it will become. You will also become a better player and enjoy it a lot more.

Trust me...

STILL RECRUITING

We have been very lucky to have started our new Corps of Drums with a membership of over 20. However we need to continue to recruit new people and I would like to ask all members to tell their friends about the Sandhurst & District "Corps of Drums".

Do you know anyone who may be interested to join us? If so let me know and I will send them details. Thanks Mark

Not Sure What to Buy?

If you want to buy any of your own things, such as drum sticks etc and you are not sure what sort or where to get them, I would be happy to give you advice. Speak to me at the end of one of our practice sessions.

It's the way I tell them....

A balloon wants to join the balloon Corps of Drums, so he goes along but the balloon Corps of Drums Drum Major says he is too big to join them. The balloon goes home and is very upset. He thinks about it and decides to let some of his air out. So the next day he goes back to the balloon Corps of Drums and asks to join again. The balloon Corps of Drums Drum Major says, I'm really sorry but you are still too big to join us. So that night the balloon creeps in to where the balloon Corps of Drums are sleeping and lets air out of the Drum Major and the rest of the balloons that are in the Corps of Drums. The next day he goes back feeling really pleased that he must be able to join them now. He goes up to the balloon Drum Major but before he can say anything the Drum Major says, "I am really disappointed with you balloon, not only have you let me and the rest of the band down but you have also let yourself down".

(I thought it was really good joke? it was kindly donated by Colin Calvert and adapted by me, Mark)

MONEY STILL COMING IN

For those of you who attended our first evening on 8th August, we had two cheques presented to us. The Sandhurst & Yateley Roundtable donated £1000 and we also received a cheque from the Sandhurst Donkey Derby Committee for £250 which will be paid into the Mayors charity. Don't forget we are the chosen charity of the Mayor and we will receive this money at a later date. Two further cheques were also received during August. On 15th August we received £500 from the Sandhurst Residents Association and on 22nd August we received £500 from the Freemasons of Berkshire. This is great news for us. We have set a fairly aggressive wish list for both instruments and uniforms and even with these new donations we still have a long way to go. However, no one ever said it would be easy and I am sure we will get there. On behalf of the Corps of Drums we would like to thank these new sponsors.