

**TDA Panel  
Meeting Minutes  
29<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Location:** ITV Studios, 200 Grays Inn Road, London

**Attendees:** Simon Daghish, Chris Crowcroft, Chris Winter, Allan Mayo, Nick Scott-Kilvert, Adam Kent, Karl Biscoe, Stu Milligan and Jenny Grant. Abi Trench dialled in.

**Apologies:** Chris Russell, Charlie Davies, Andy Wilkes, Ian Kennett, Allan Mayo

**Last meeting's minutes and matters arising**

- Unable to extend finish time of Reunion Dinner.
  - Agreed that this year we will organise minibuses to drop into town or 'The Three Cups', where a late license can be arranged.
- Museum fundraising proposal is not yet ready, but is still planned as the first major fundraising campaign.

**School Update**

**Legal cases:**

- All legal cases, other than the Personal Injury case, are now over.

**Staff:**

- NSK is leaving at Easter, AK will be taking over.
- CR has also resigned and will be leaving at Christmas
  - Recruitment process for new Head is about to start.
- SD recorded thanks to NSK and CR for the fantastic jobs they have done in difficult circumstances. The School is in very good condition at the moment in terms not just of its improved facilities, but also pastorally and through its focus on improving the standard of education.

**Building work:**

- Many impressive new facilities are currently being built or planned:
  - New athletics track
  - New one-way system
  - Resurfaced Astroturf
  - New netball/tennis courts and multi-use games area
  - New alarm system
  - New swimming pool lining

- 'Trim trail' (outdoor gym equipment over a course)
- Freshly painted windows on all boarding houses

### **Other School news:**

- Recent flood in Centenary House
  - Ground floor unusable, girls have moved into Haig, boys on to top floor of Centenary
- Funding for Alanbrooke has been received, not yet sure what will be done.
- Also discussion around keeping students in same house for Year 7 and 8.

### **Grand Day**

- Grand Day will be on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July this year.
- Our Inspecting Officer will be The Duke of Kent.

### **TDA Update**

#### **TDA Website Portal**

- JG demonstrated the new TDA portal, accessible through the 'Alumni' tab on the DOYRMS website. This is in its first stages and feedback/suggestions are welcomed.
- Through the portal, Dukies will be able to:
  - View, register and pay for events directly
  - Download publications such as Dukie News and Panel Meeting minutes.
  - Purchase Merchandise: CC requested inclusion of Art Cockerill's book.
  - Find friends. JG to check whether a 'blind contact' message system would be preferable.
- Dukies will be sent a password and user name, enabling them to log in. They will be able to change their own profiles and authorise other users to see their contact information.
- There will also be a message board.
- CC asked how the portal can assist careers interactivity/networking. CW suggested a searchable field should be education/job/professional qualification/areas of expertise. SM suggested boxes to say 'I am interested in X, Y and Z'.
- JG would like further suggestions and will modify the search fields to include whatever we feel is important.
- Also needing to be added to the portal are:
  - Clocktower Society information and forms

## **Events**

### **Reunion Dinner feedback**

- Food was excellent
- More waiting staff would be beneficial for quicker service next time
- Barrel of beer worked well
- Bar service could have been improved. Next time may be better to pay for staff rather than using Staff Common Room volunteers
- Any profits from the dinner should have gone to the Clocktower Society – AK to confirm
- It was felt that the event could be used for more fundraising next time around. 3 or 4 really good prizes in an auction could work, or sheets on every place setting (in an envelope, with the person's name on it). Build on last time.

### **Careers Fair and workshops**

- Careers Fair is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>, 27 people have volunteered to assist.
- Variety of disciplines including: Military, medicine, property, advertising and media, finance, fitness, teaching, engineering, HR, Town Planning, journalism and project management
- JG has asked Head of Sixth Form for feedback on Students' interests: they have specifically asked for engineering, plus advertising and media.
- CR suggested there should be a recruitment representative for those students who don't know what they want to do. Chris Target, the School careers adviser, should also be invited.
- Careers Workshops have been a success so far. JG looking for an engineer for next one on 26<sup>th</sup> February, to fit with students' wishes. If anyone knows anyone who could help, please let JG know. Might need to use a non-Dukie.
- CW had a suggestion re Royal Institution of Engineers – JG also to put a call-out on Facebook requesting assistance.

### **Saunton Sands Reunion**

- A (Sunday Lunch) Reunion is taking place for Saunton Sands Dukies at the Saunton Sands Hotel on March 20<sup>th</sup>.
- 9 definites coming– most will be staying at the hotel.
- JG will collect all their archive records from when they were at school, and will make up a pack for each of them to take away
- This should be a memorable and special occasion.

### **Army/Navy Rugby Match**

- Saatchi gallery (old School in Chelsea) was too expensive to book for a Founders Day event, couldn't get it below £80 a head.
- RFU had offered us a banqueting room in the stands at the Army/Navy Rugby but this was expensive and not particularly atmospheric.

- Instead, JG has bought 50 tickets for Army/Navy Rugby Match at Twickenham on April 30th, all of which have been quickly sold.
- £30 a ticket to include match, beer and snacks – could have charged more.
- SD is going to try and get beer sponsored from Shepherds Neame.
- This year will be a tester, if it is a success it will be a good opportunity to take forward/grow in future years. Could end up being our ‘London Summer event’.
- Could have a bucket there, like we did at the reunion dinner, for donations to the Clocktower Society. Could also have leaflets/forms.
- Can’t sell beer, but can ask for donations. NSK suggested that we send out wristbands to all those who have tickets. People who haven’t bought tickets but show up can buy a wristband for £5 just for beers/food.
- Logistics will be difficult in terms of how much to buy/provide in terms of food/drink, but suggestion is to fill the Landrover as we can always return/use elsewhere.
- Need to arrive early with the Landrover to get set up and choose a good spot.
- SD suggested bringing Landrover up to his house the night before, as not too far away, so can load up early and arrive in good time.

### **Clocktower Society**

- We now have 28 members of the Clocktower Society, up by 8 from the last meeting.
- Clocktower Dinner is taking place on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 16 Clocktower members have confirmed attendance.
- CC asked which staff will be present, and suggested inclusion of RSM as programme officer for Leadership.
- NSK stated only political problem with this is that Adventure Training has got a lot of funding and the greater need is Student Support. At present, a very large & debilitating number of pupils are supported by TDF and the School itself.
- JG and NSK stated that the evening is predominantly a thank you from CR to the Clocktower Members, but will also provide opportunity for exchange of information.
- JG/NSK to discuss the format of the evening with CR.

### **Any Other Business**

- Next meeting in April – TBC. JG to send dates early next week.
- NSK – CR asked whether there would be any chance of next meeting being at DOYRMS.
  - This was felt to be more difficult for the panel
  - Could move it from a Friday so that it doesn’t clash with parade and chapel for CR.

### **Upcoming Dates**

February 26 <sup>th</sup>	13.30	‘Dukies Inspiring Dukies’ presentation – Nye Hall
	19.30	Clocktower Dinner – School House
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	09.30	Dukies Careers Fair – Nye Hall
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	Saunton Sands Reunion Lunch, Saunton Sands Hotel
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	Army/Navy rugby match – Twickenham
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.30	TDA Panel Meeting, ITV