



*THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BASKETMAKERS*

# Griffin News

## Spring 2010

*Welcome to this issue of Griffin News to keep you informed on some of the events going on in your Company.*

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## *Basketmakers' Spring 2010 Newsletter*

### *Editorial*

Welcome to the first issue of 2010 with whatever this year holds for better or worse. As far as our beloved Basketmakers Company is concerned we go from strength to strength, with new features and events taking shape.

In the year 2000, as Prime Warden, your Editor was involved in creating our website [www.basketmakersco.org](http://www.basketmakersco.org) and since then has been responsible for keeping it updated, with Neil Smith, one of our Yeoman Members and Freeman of the Company, managing the technical side. Through the good offices of Sebastian Mowbray, a Freeman of our Company, it has now been placed in the hands of a professional company, Surge Solutions, so again we move ahead, deriving more benefits from this swiftly moving technical age.

Our Learned Clerk, Roger de Pilkington mentions in his column on page 3 how the Company has benefited by the restructuring of our Court Dinner to create contacts with the other City Livery Companies by entertaining their Masters and Clerks. From the 'Forthcoming Events' on page 4 you may also observe that we have instigated an Inter Livery Ten Pin Bowling competition which it is hoped will prove a popular event, the first being held on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> July, details will be circulated by the Clerk.

A new format has been adopted for Installation Day, the timing being moved to the evening rather than being held at lunchtime.

*Greetings from the South Atlantic Liveryman and Lieutenant Colonel Hedley French reporting from the Falkland Islands*

Together with my wife Helena and son Hector, we've been serving in the Falkland Islands for just over seven months, since we left Staff College in the summer of 2009. It feels very distant and isolated from our family and friends, as it takes almost 20 hours to fly here via Ascension Island.

We are here as part of the British Forces South Atlantic Islands, which has responsibility for looking after not only the Falkland Islands, but also South Georgia as well as the South Sandwich Islands. The garrison is made up of all three services: Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force; with my particular area of responsibility being to oversee all planning work.



*The picture is of Helena, Hector and Lt Col Hedley French, taken in Stanley on the occasion of the Queen's Birthday Parade with HMS CLYDE in the background*

Whilst we have been down here we have made maximum opportunity to visit many of the outlying islands. We have been fortunate to see in the wild, penguins, sea lions, dolphins and elephant seals, to name but a few of the animals and birds that live here. As you might also imagine, being stuck out in the South Atlantic makes the weather extreme and they say that you get all four seasons in one day, ranging from sunshine through to snow. The wind at times can be so strong, you start to think the roof might blow off the house at any moment.

Whilst not wishing our time away, we are looking forward to the time when we return home and can once again regularly attend the Company's social functions. We send you all our best regards from the South Atlantic.



## Reports From Our Three Service Affiliations

### *H.M.S. Richmond*



Feb was wholly dominated by an intensive period of BOST; Richmond was put through Her paces by the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training and She has been fully tested across the full spectrum of maritime activity. Highlights have included fulfilling the Command Task Group function during the Weekly War where our CO, Captain Walliker OBE was the commander in charge of all ships undergoing FOST during a day at 'war', no mean feat indeed. A highlight for myself was the Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Exercise, bringing assistance to the people of 'Tresco', an exercise village on the outskirts of Plymouth in the immediate aftermath of a hurricane. This evolution was genuinely good fun; with actual deserted buildings and actors playing the dead and wounded. We are responsible for initial support of the village, dealing with Saving Life and Lessening Suffering. I was in charge of the Mechanical Engineering section on the ground with a number of incidents to deal with and having to prioritise each. The other incidents to deal with were the large number of casualties, fires and overall command and control. The Ship's company splits itself in two for this with the CO and part of the command team remaining on board with the XO and remainder of the command team taking charge on the ground. I am glad to say that we were successful in this evolution and returned to the ship for a well-earned weekend leave.

The following weekend at sea allowed the Ship to embark the FOST Towed Array Response Team and head into the deeper water off the south west coast to conduct a period of Active/Passive detection and tracking of an HM Submarine. This has prepared Richmond for her long period of national tasking in her primary role of Great Britain's lead antisubmarine frigate. I am happy to report that the Ship's Company have attacked BOST with their usual verve and vigour and have attracted much praise and positive feedback from the embarked sea riders. HMS Richmond, having "trained hard," is now "ready for anything" as per the CO's aims and objectives.

By the start of March Richmond faced the concluding hurdle of the 'Final Inspection' a hard day of war fighting, with attacking aircraft, ships and submarines causing a host of 'for exercise' fires and floods. She passed and had the pleasure of inviting a former CO, Cdre Wayne Keeble RN, on board to conduct Her Final Inspection and debrief. The result the Ship achieved was testament to the hard work, dedication and attitude towards training of Her Company. A weekend in Brest was a fitting reward and allowed time to recover from the strains of the previous two months. The Ship returned to Portsmouth to conduct a month long Fleet Time Support Period in advance of assuming a National Tasking role for a prolonged period of 2010. This intensive period of maintenance, which included the removal of a gas turbine and the replacement of a diesel generator, should see the Ship through to her next scheduled maintenance in Nov. The month culminated with the visit of the new MoD Director General Commercial, Mr. Andrew Manley, as part of his introduction to Fleet. The visit was a great success with DG Commercial leaving with a positive impression of Richmond and the RN having been given a taste of on board life and RN capabilities.

Report by Lt. Edward Hammock RN  
dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2010

### *No.5 (Army Co-operation) Squadron*

The Squadron has now gained our full complement of aircraft and ground stations and after declaring an Initial Operating Capability and two successful operational rehearsals, the Squadron was tasked to deploy in support of operations last year. Since the moment the tarmac met the rubber in theatre we have been in high demand and have consistently delivered high quality actionable intelligence to the commanders on the ground. We are now committed to sustained/enduring operations with Squadron personnel deployed in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

Some technical difficulties are inevitable with new and bespoke systems, this means our engineers (air and ground, RAF and Army) are in high demand for both maintenance and repair but also working on development and improvements with our partners from civil industry. Fortunately our customers remain largely unaware of the sterling work carried out by these largely unsung groups as, again and again, the Squadron delivers.

Back in the UK, training new crews for both aircraft and ground stations continues as we work with the brigades and other formations with whom we will support on operations. As you can imagine, Squadron morale is high!

### Report from Capt. James Coupland Sqn CO.



### Enjoying a tea break from Sqn. Basket Hamper

### *100 Yeomanry Regiment RA*

Austerity measures are having an impact on the numbers attending for training, but despite this their focus was on getting their collective Gunnery skills up to peak levels, which they expect to maintain over the coming year. It is necessary to ensure that everyone is correctly qualified both for their specific roles in the Regiment and also for promotional and professional development. During the middle two weeks in September there will be a centralised Annual Camp at Sennybridge in Wales when all of the 49 (East) Brigade Units will come together to train in the most cost effective and combined manner.

Over the year up to 20 soldiers are expected to take their place alongside their Regular Army counterparts supporting current operations in Afghanistan under the banner of Operation HERRICK. It is necessary that they are properly trained not just as Royal Artillery Gunners but also in low level soldier skills: first aid, fitness, shooting and navigation amongst others. In April 2011 around 20 soldiers will be sent for a six-month tour of duty to the United Nations operations in Cyprus (patrolling the 'Green Line' between the sometimes volatile Greek and Cypriot communities) under the banner of Operation TOSCA.

It's not all work and no play, as many will be sent away on Adventurous Training, so a team of 16 soldiers were sent to France for 10 days to compete in the Army Nordic and Alpine ski championships.

An abridged report to the Court from  
Lt. Col Jacko Jackson





## *Court News from the Clerk's Office*

### *St Margaret Pattens*

At the October Court, Assistant Tony Charlwood tabled a copy of the 10 Year Plan produced by St Margaret Pattens setting out their forthcoming financial and operational goals. One of the key issues facing most churches, not least those based in the City, is their funding. In simple terms they are now expected to not only be self-funding but also to contribute to the general diocese funds. In addition to this there is a continuing programme of maintenance and improvements necessary to the fabric of the church. Plans have now been agreed for the re-furbishment of the Vestry and the Tower. This will require the church raising substantial sums of money. The Pattenmakers' Company have already undertaken a charity concert to raise money for the church and the Basketmakers' are looking at ways to do something similar.

### *Court Dinner*

It was decided in 2007 that the Court Dinner, which had previously been exclusively for Court members, should be extended to provide an opportunity for us to entertain the Masters and Clerks of other Companies who provide us with so much hospitality throughout the year. Each year we host around a third of the Livery and in 2009 we completed the cycle having now invited every other Livery Company to dine with us. Not only does this repay the hospitality we enjoy but helps to considerably raise the profile of the Company within the City and provides a valuable opportunity for Court members to learn about the different ways that other Companies run their Livery. If you think that all Livery Companies are the same well they are not – it seems that there are 108 different ways of running a Livery Company and this gives us a great opportunity to look at best practice. It also gave us a chance to celebrate the 94th and 80th birthdays of Hon Assistant Norman Gibbs and Under Warden Deputy John Barker!

### *Young Members*

Both the GPC and Livery Committees have been looking at the ways in which we can engage more fully with the younger Members of the Company. Liverymen Keith Graham and Govind Kanagaratnam were asked to form a working group to look at this and to report back to the April meetings of the Committees.

### *Charitable Trust*

Following the retirement as Trustee by Hon Assist Melvin Bruce, the Court agreed the appointment of PPW George Alford, PPW Jeremy Sorrell and Assistant Alderman Neil Redcliffe as Trustees.

### *Competitions*

The Court gave its approval to the sponsorship of a bi-annual competition for the Best Basket of the Year and also the first Inter-Livery Tenpin Bowling Competition.

### *Presentation*

At the April Livery Dinner, the Prime Warden presented PPW Olivia Elton Barratt with a certificate in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the trade of basketmaking.

## *Visit to the Old Operating Theatre* *17th February 2010*

St. Thomas's Hospital was originally founded at the Priory of St Thomas in Southwark before being re-built on its present site opposite the Palace of Westminster. Until the early days the operations in the hospital were carried out behind screens in the wards with the patients being urged to keep quiet so as not to disturb the other patients. No easy task in the days before anaesthetics! In 1822 it was finally decided to install a purpose built Operating Theatre away from the wards where the students could better observe the techniques of the surgeons and also keep the patients out of the wards. This became the first such facility in Europe. The theatre was used until 1862 when St Thomas's relocated. The Operating Theatre in the roof of St Thomas's church was then abandoned and forgotten until its rediscovery in 1956. It was then restored, together with the Herb Garret and opened to the public.

The Basketmakers' enjoyed a tour of the Herb Garret and a lecture by the curator of the museum in the Operating Theatre. This included a demonstration of early operating techniques – happily Mervyn Redding our Chief Steward survived and lived to tell the tale with all her limbs intact.



**The Old Operating Theatre**

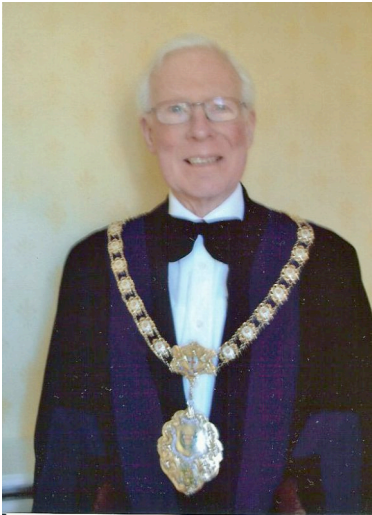
After the tour we strolled around the corner to the George Inn, Southwark. This is the only surviving example of an early coaching inn left in London and features in writings by Chaucer, Dickens and Trollope to name but a few. It may also be where William Shakespeare appeared, as the courtyard of the inn was used for theatrical performances at this time. It is now owned by the National Trust and run by Greene King Breweries who provided us with an excellent meal and plentiful wine, making a great end to a fascinating glimpse into the rich history of this part of London.



**The George Inn Southwark**

Report by Roger de Pilkington





Past Prime Warden  
Graham Redcliffe

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BASKETMAKERS



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## Graham Redcliffe

Graham Redcliffe was born of Cornish Stock in a memorable year 1929, the year of the Wall Street Crash!

Educated at the Church of England School, Chingford and latterly as an external student of the University of London, in 1947 he forsook deferment to do two years National Service in the Royal Navy. In the electrical branch he looked after the servicing of aircraft from the Seafire onwards. His greatest pleasure was test flights in such wonderful World War 2 veterans as the Fairey Firefly and the De Havilland Mosquito. He also represented the Royal Navy in inter-service boxing and trained for the Field Gun Crew at the Royal Tournament at Olympia in 1949.

On demobilisation he joined the family business of electrical engineers founded by his father in 1925. In 1954 he married Beverley, a Liveryman of this Company, the daughter of the late Bunny Morgan, a Past Prime Warden. They have two sons, Stuart, an Honorary Assistant, residing abroad, and Neil, an Alderman of the City of London and Assistant of the Company. Two of their grandchildren are also Basketmakers, Melissa who recently became a Freeman and Henry who in serving as Apprentice to his father. Together they mark five generations of family involvement with this Company.

Graham became a Liveryman in 1967 and was elected to Court in 1981, subsequently becoming Prime Warden in 1989. He was Chairman of the Royal Society of St George, City of London branch in 1985 and President of the City Livery Club in 1990. In 2009 he was elected President of the United Wards Club and also President of the Royal Society of St George.

## Forthcoming Events

### 2010

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May Musical Tour & Supper, Charterhouse, Smithfield  
 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May Lunch at Farmers' Club, Cabinet War Rooms tour  
 Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June Summer Dinner, Tallow Chandlers' Hall  
 Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June Election of Sheriffs, Farmers & Fletchers Hall  
 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July Inter-Livery Tenpin Bowling Competition  
 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July Court meeting & Livery Dinner, Skinners' Hall  
 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September Annual Banquet Mansion House  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September Election of Lord Mayor, Lunch Salters' Hall  
 Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October Visit to Magic Circle  
 Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October Installation Day, evening service and Livery Dinner at Skinners' Hall  
 Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November Lord Mayor's Show, lunch Farmers and Fletchers' Hall  
 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November Stewards' Club Dinner, Imperial Hotel  
 Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November Basket Making Day Royal National Hotel  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December Court meeting & Livery Dinner, Skinners' Hall  
 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service St. Margaret Pattens, supper at Waterman's Hall

From a very young age he has had a great interest in motorcars and over the years has owned a number of classic and historic cars including Bentleys and Rolls Royce. He currently owns two vintage Rolls Royce, one of which is 86 years old and which has appeared in the Lord Mayor's show on five occasions.

In retirement he enjoys gardening, walking, holidaying and DIY

## City Dip

Due to a sudden illness the Team Captain was unable to swim in this fund raising event this year, however he was there on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> February to organise our dedicated Team of swimmers and together with his wife Julie offer his encouragement. Our Team consisted of Nick Walduck, who swam on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup>; those swimming on the Saturday were PPW George Alford, Alex Walduck, and Court Assistant Alderman Neil Redcliffe, with added support from a new team member, Mónica Bakonyi a very keen swimmer who was introduced to us by Neil Redcliffe. She looks forward to joining our Team next year. Subject to final figures the sponsorship raised to date amounts to an amazing £4,420, so on behalf of our magnificent Swimming Team may I thank all those who so generously sponsored our efforts.

Report by Team Captain  
Norman E. Woolley.

