



ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

“Otia Tuta”

Vice- President’s Annual Report to the AGM, June 2021

Dear Association Membership,

It’s been a quiet year for the RHSA this year with most events we would normally sponsor postponed until safe to do so. This unfortunately includes the June Reunion again this year, but November is planned as is May 2022.

Once again we are scheduling the AGM via Zoom and as last year all the RHSA annual reports will be posted on the RHSA page of the Royal Hospital School/Alumni website to help facilitate any questions you may have, ahead of the AGM call. A special thank you to Nick Gill for his organisational diligence. I hope as many as possible will attend and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

On a very sad note, on behalf of the Association, I’d like to offer sincere condolences to the families and the friends of the two special young men, Tom Miller (Raleigh 2015) and Will Christmas (Raleigh 2018) who were tragically killed last year. I know many plan to attend the forthcoming Will Christmas Celebration on 10 July and I will attend representing the RHSA. Friends and family of Tom are organising a rugby match in his memory, RHS Alumni vs Nottingham Trent University at Nottingham Rugby Club on Saturday 31 July.

General Committee and Alumni Office:

Your GC team is as follows -

Vice President; Andy Redwood, Treasurer; Stephen Traynor, General Secretary; Nick Gill, Membership Secretary; Mark Lucas, Events & Media Secretary; Aimee Frankham, Alumni Office; Lucy Pembroke, Katie Gould

I want to take this opportunity to say a big ‘thank you’ to the GC team, who give their time for free to attend regular calls to discuss, the annual budget, tasks and activities and allow the RHSA to support not only the School, but our Alumni members wherever they may be.

Also a special ‘thank you’ to the Alumni support team – Gavin Stone, Lucy Pembroke and Katie Gould who form the vital support wing located at the School.

Membership:

In July we will welcome the new intake of 2021 leavers. I hope all the boys receive your ties and all the girls your pendants!



The Association exists to support our members and assist in any way we can to help the education of existing pupils. Mark Lucas continues to provide information and place members in contact with each other, taking full advantage of the access the Alumni Office provides to the InTouch database. Mark will provide a detailed update in his own annual report.

I'd also like to thank my brother Harry, Claire Waugh and Brian Gatward, for their valiant efforts volunteering to digitalise the many paper records.

Financials:

I'd like to thank the Headmaster for the annual £6,000 grant in place of subscriptions for new members. This grant automatically enrolls all leavers in any given year as a Life Member of the RHSA, but most are probably not aware, that the Alumni Office, the Gidge magazine and mass correspondence on behalf of the RHSA, is also funded by the School. This gives the RHSA the opportunity to allocate funds to annual projects, maintain a support fund for those most in need and keep a watchful eye on our older members. I cannot thank the Headmaster and staff at RHS enough for their continuous support.

During lockdown the Support Fund came close to depletion and I thank those who have donated a grand total of £755 so far. Well done Aimee! The fund will remain open and we are grateful for any donation, no matter how small.

Stephen Traynor continues as Treasurer. Stephen will provide details of all the RHSA financials in his own report. My thanks to Stephen for keeping a close eye on budgets.

Projects:

Events and media do not progress without Aimee and Lucy working together and I thank them both for their tireless efforts. As you will expect, most of our sponsored events have not gone ahead in the past year. This year we will catch up and provide more than £15,000 towards careers and networking events, the band, fieldgun team, and iPads for seafaring bursary students. We are also including a donation of £4,000 to the School to assist their Covid-Support Fund.

Closing:

We constantly improve our efforts to keep our Members in contact with each other worldwide. I'd like to thank all those who take active leadership role within the many RHSA branches. I look forward to working more closely with you in the next year.

We will resume the support to new leavers to help them pursue their career aspirations and we continue to support our older membership. Finally, my thanks to all members for your support to the RHSA Alumni team throughout the past year.

Stay well and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ARW'.

Andy Redwood
Vice President, Royal Hospital School

