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26<sup>th</sup> January 2020

### **Harson's Newsletter for 2019.**

Dear Purchasers,  
Greetings,

As the country readies itself for Boris Johnson's reign of terror, I send my thanks to all the Regional KP's for their continued hard work and enthusiasm in raising funds for good causes.

I was saddened to learn that the Annual Dinner at the Castle Club at Rochester was curtailed due to poor support, but trust that this will be a momentary hiccup.

2021 will mark the Centenary of the Purchasers and early in the coming year I will be involved in some preliminary discussions as to how this should be celebrated. If individual Purchasers have any ideas, perhaps they could communicate with the Chief Crook.

As always, on your behalf, I thank Douglas McCully for his formidable labours in keeping the ship afloat, but we should remember that he is not getting any younger and will need to be replaced one day.

Last year we said goodbye to several of our number, and in particular I should like to place on record the gathering of Kim Bellamy and record our gratitude for all that he achieved when acting as Harson and also Christopher (Harry) Denne for his patient good humour when Chief Crook and for his assiduous searching for suitable charities to support in East Kent. They are both sorely missed.

### **Purchasers Area Reports ~ 2019**

#### **East Kent ~ KPs Douglas McCully, Robert Prestige & Dominic McCully.**

Our activities this year have been similar to last year and we are particularly grateful to Bertie Prestige for the hard work and enthusiasm he displays organising the golf, to Dominic McCully for organising the Cricket match at Belmont. Our thanks too to Harry Denne for researching suitable cases to support. Harry's Service of Thanksgiving attended by some 200 friends on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January and was a real tribute to a wonderful Purchaser who will be greatly missed. Sadly, we also remember, with great affection, East Kent Purchaser Rod Arnold who was gathered on 12<sup>th</sup> August and who's support at Cricket was unique.

#### **Golf at Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club ~ Deal**

**Spring Meeting.** Was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April. 19 joined for lunch upstairs in the Clubhouse, and after Lunch 15 set off in blustery and rather overcast conditions. The winners of the Tardif Trophy were Andrew Reynolds & KP Christopher Denne with 35 points, second were Tim Oldfield & Peter Ludgate with 31 points. We gave £80 to the Staff Fund and with the Raffle and donations made £692.

**Autumn Meeting.** Was held on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November. We had 12 golfers who enjoyed glorious sunshine and no wind. The Tardif trophy was won by Andrew Reynolds & Mark Copestake with 31 points closely followed by Charles Atkins and Charles Selmond with 29 points. 13 Purchaser attended an excellent dinner at The Mermaid at Bishopsbourne, where we made two new Purchasers Simon Cullingworth & Tony Kindred. With raffle and donations, we made £506.

**Those Purchasers wishing to play in either of the Tardif matches this year on Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April & Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 20 should email: [prestige@3parklane.co.uk](mailto:prestige@3parklane.co.uk).**

### **Purchasers XI+ v Badlesmere Bronchials XI at Belmont.**

The annual match took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. It was a closely fought game with the Purchasers team the winners. It was a pleasure to make two younger Purchasers members as a reward for their match winning performances. 50 Purchasers and their guests and 15+ children enjoyed an excellent Bar B Q. We are most grateful for the support, including the "Rochester Sausages", we receive from Purchasers throughout Kent and Sussex. And for the prodigious work of our team of ladies who delivered the excellent food.

**For your diary the Belmont Cricket for this year will be a three-way tournament of "A hundred Ball Cricket": Purchasers/Badlesmere/The Haymakers on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

### **Gloucester ~ KPs Jeremy Dancey, David Foyle & Philip Dancey.**

Active Members: 44. 3 new members this year. 2 Non active members.

#### **Events during the year:**

We sponsored Hartpury RFC again this year on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January for their match against Doncaster Knights which was a great day out with 27 members and 27 guests followed by Steak & Chips at the usual local hostelry. We raised £340 from our final score "guesser".

**The Annual Dinner** on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March was another excellent occasion held at the New Club in Cheltenham attended by 24 members plus the 3 new members who were welcomed into the fellowship on the evening. We managed to raise £270 through our raffle plus £345 at auction.

At the **Cheltenham Cricket Festival** on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July we took several tables in The New Club marquee this year. Attendance was excellent with 18 Purchasers plus 16 guests. We raised £140 from the "guesser".

Our annual day out to **Chepstow Races** on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November was another great success with 25 members and 17 guests attending. We raised £175 through a "tipster". We all travelled together by coach to a private box at the racecourse followed by an excellent dinner at a pub nearer home in the evening.

**Donations.** During the year we donated £1,679 to a number of small local charities and families in financial trouble.

- \* £500 to Gloucester Child Contact Centre who reunite children with their families.
- \* £200 to Hartpury Primary School for a new shed in the playground.
- \* £160 to supply and install a cooker for a single mum with 3 children and no income.
- \* £250 towards a pool table for Taylor House that accommodates people with specialist needs.
- \* £250 to Gloucester Stroke Club to support venue hire and guest speakers.
- \* £69 for repairs to a washing machine for a single mum of two who's partner recently died.
- \* £250 towards specialist trike for a local 7-year old with spina bifida.

Current funds stand at £ 823.

**2020 Events:** Hartpury Rugby Sponsorship: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Annual Dinner Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March and Cheltenham Cricket Festival & Chepstow Races to be announced.

### **Guernsey ~ KP Jamie Doggart**

I am happy to report that Guernsey Purchasers are very much on an even keel, with our usual three meetings and the Annual Dinner at The United Club – all well attended and enjoyed.

In the last couple of weeks Richard Gray, a staunch supporter of Guernsey Purchasers was gathered while attending a match at his beloved Harlequins.

We have two additions to the Cohort – Simon MacPhail joined in September and Chris Lovell, son of the late Purchaser Ben Lovell in November.

A good many small donations have been made, targeting those for whom a little means a lot. The Welfare and Social Services people are invaluable in pointing us in the right direction.

Our Annual Dinner for 2020 is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Warmest good wishes to Purchasers everywhere.

### **Jersey ~ KP Patrick Delafield.**

Please accept and promulgate my sincerest apologies for absence from this year's Court Meeting. I deeply regret missing what I know will be a jolly assembly, and I hope the recalcitrant staff in the East India Club Restaurant will not upset the digestion. And of course, I shall be wearing my tie!

The Purchasers of Jersey have met twice this year, as is our wont, and a very jolly crew came together on each occasion, firstly on 1<sup>st</sup> May (12 in attendance) being a whole month after the predicated Fate Day, through force of circumstance, and subsequently on 6<sup>th</sup> November (16 in attendance) which was altogether more accurate and,

thanks to torrential rain, we were spared the inane background noise of continuous explosions that normally seem to pervade the entire week around the November Fate Day.

We greeted a Postulant at our November Fate Day and duly elected the splendid Alan Roberts, Master of The Coopers' Company, who regaled us with a hilarious tale about how his own ineptitude in the handling of the fine fellow led to his failing to prevent his mighty Shire-Horse "Ajax", standing at 18 hands and weighing in at a ton or so, from dropping the entire weight of his superb rump onto several adjacent motor cars at some festival in Guernsey because he (quite clearly) took offence at their flashiness. Evidently the consequent indentations were a delight to behold. We have distributed significant funds to the Caesarea Association, a small but very well run organisation that helps young single mums who have run into difficulties through providing them with a refuge, and once again The Beresford Street Kitchen, whose patron is Julian Clyde-Smith, son of Tony, an erstwhile Jersey Purchaser who was gathered about a quarter of a century ago. The BSK has established a specialist training programme that gives help to youngsters with learning difficulties trying to make a go of a career in the catering industry.

As things stand at the moment the Jersey Purchasers plan their first 2020 Dinner for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April. The date for the November Fate Day Dinner will almost certainly be Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. As always, visiting Purchasers would be enormously welcome.

I am advised by sundry Jersey Purchasers that we can look forward to meeting another Postulant at our April Fate Day, and I hope this small but steady incremental progress will continue. Age shall not weary us, but tempus fugit. We send kindest Greetings to all Purchasers.

#### **Rochester ~ KP Noël Bramley.**

Rochester continues to be an active group and we continue to look for worthy causes to support, but in the meantime building a useful bank balance. Sadly, one of our beloved Members was gathered this year, namely Derek Holt. We shall miss his enthusiastic company and laughter.

Many Rochester Purchasers and wives/ partners and guests attended the splendid day of the Cricket at Belmont in August. The barbecue and all catering arrangements, masterminded by Catherine McCully, again exceptional. During near perfect weather some of our members even watched the game.

Sadly, our Fate Day Dinner scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> October had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers to stage such an event. Clearly, many members were intent on 'trick or treating' the same evening. We trust they were treated. We thank those who kindly donated to the cause despite not receiving dinner at The Castle Club. Indeed, regrettably, our new Purchaser, Clive Emson MBE, did not have the chance to sport his newly acquired Purchasers tie.

We have scheduled a Fate Day Dinner at The Castle Club for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

In memory of the late Derek Holt we supported his wish by donating £500. to The Heart Foundation.

Our Funds currently stand at £3653.10. Rochester Purchasers now number 32.

#### **Rye ~ KP Bob Stephenson.**

The Annual match between Rye Purchasers v The Rest was, as usual, elegantly organised by Bob Stephenson on Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November. The home team won 2-1. We look forward to the return match, and more particularly, the lunch in such excellent company on Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020.

#### **Scotland ~ KPs Keith Oliver & Brian Adair.**

On behalf of King Purchaser Brian Adair and the Scottish cohort I write to report that we are in good heart north of the border ; we have held 2 well attended dinners this year and I, as Chief Crook, following our recent November dinner have been instructed to make a fairly substantial donation to Bethany Trust.

We have had a number of guests and new members following on from their exposure to "gross buffoonery ". C. Keith Oliver

#### **Sussex ~ KP John Spink.**

Piltdown Golf was played on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The weather improved and 18 played. Piltdown Purchasers beat the visitors and we were 20 for the excellent lunch. We had support from East Kent & Rye. We raised £230 for "The Cause" and gave £200 to the Lewes Oyster Project that provides a wide range of support for the disabled.

Purchaser Martin Rogers organized everything at Piltdown and the day is planned for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Nigel Russell and Ham Witty organized the match between the Sussex Martlets and The Purchasers again at

Piltdown on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June and this is planned again for Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 when the Purchasers seek revenge!

Sad to report John Young was gathered on 16<sup>th</sup> December. He had suffered with ill health over a number of years but was of great assistance in organizing the Piltdown Purchasers golf.

#### **Weald Purchasers ~ KPs Ian Standen & Peter Ludgate**

We are planning a Clay Pigeon shoot at Peter's next Spring and a dinner with Speaker in the summer. We will also support your golf days and cricket match.

We will try to increase the membership.

#### **West Kent ~ KP John Fraser.**

I am sorry to report that the West Kent Purchasers have had little activity this past year. The Rochester Purchasers and ourselves tried to have usual November joint dinner. Due to lack of interest the dinner had to be cancelled. The only funds raised in the past year came from Fate Day fines!

Th Disbursements in 2019: Once again we have supported the Riding for the Disabled, Bow Arrow Group Dartford with a donation of £ 500.00. Sadly, I have to report the gathering of Anthony Easter.

Our funds currently stand at £ 501.89. Our membership currently stands at 24.

#### **Greetings from West Kent**

**Purchasers Golf v the Sussex Martlets GS ~ Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 ~ Match Manager: Nigel Russell.** Applications please to [nigelrussell@uwclub.net](mailto:nigelrussell@uwclub.net) or 01825 830891.

#### **Purchasers Web Site. [www.amop.org.uk](http://www.amop.org.uk)**

Purchasers with access to computers should visit the Purchasers website which has been running now for four years. At the recent Meeting of the Court, KP Philip Dancey was formally thanked for the efforts he had taken to keep the web site running.

#### **Purchasers Function Dates for 2020.**

- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Gloucester Purchasers Hartpury Rugby.
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Gloucester Purchasers Annual Dinner.
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Fate Day & Jersey Purchasers Dinner.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Scottish Purchasers Dinner.
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Halford Hewitt.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April - Purchasers Lunch at Noon followed by Tardif Golf Match– RCPGC Deal.
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Purchasers v Sussex Martlets GS – Piltdown.
- Gloucester Purchasers Cheltenham Cricket Festival **(TBA)**.
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July - 149<sup>th</sup> Open @ Sandwich.
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August – Belmont Cricket Three-way tournament of 100 ball Cricket. Purchasers v Badlesmere Bronchials v The Haymakers.
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August - Piltdown Purchasers v Purchasers Golf – followed by lunch @ Piltdown.
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October - Rochester & West Kent Dinner at the Castle Club, Rochester.
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November- Jersey Purchasers Dinner.
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November – Fate Day.
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November - Guernsey Annual Dinner.
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November - Purchasers Tardif Golf Match teeing off at 11.00hrs RCPGC Deal followed by Dinner @ The Mermaid, Bishopsbourne.
- Gloucester Purchasers Chepstow Races. **(TBA)**
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November - Rye Purchasers v Purchasers Golf and lunch @ Rye. **tbc**
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Court Meeting followed by luncheon at the East India Club.

A happy and prosperous 2020 to you all together with my Greetings & Good Purchasing!

**Harson**