

## **BUFFALOES 2015-16**

Bryanston Buffaloes, founded and run by Alan Shrimpton since 1979 has embarked upon significant changes this year whilst retaining its core activities. Alan, now elected President, is still very much the eyes, ears and memory of the Buffaloes, particularly of things OB and historical. The Buffalo Committee, greatly assisted by the Development Office, has embarked upon a new era of Buffalo support for the school's rowing. This, coinciding with the appointment of Richard Boulton as Head of Rowing, and a new boatman, together with the purchase of new boats and equipment, housed in the delightful new boathouse, creates a solid platform from which new aims and ambitions of rowing at Bryanston can flourish.

### **Leander Dinner**

Alan once again organised a successful dinner at Leander Club at Henley-on-Thames in April. Whilst the priority of competing at Wallingford Regatta the next day precluded the crews and parents from attending due to a date change beyond our control, the gathering of nearly four dozen enjoyed as warm an occasion as any past dinner, bringing in the very successful crews of 1970-77.

### **Henley Royal Regatta and other regattas**

Whilst our hopes for a crew to support and to promote Bryanston at the Regatta this year did not progress beyond the qualifying round on the Friday before the Regatta, Bryanston Catering Department, with moral support from the Buffalo Committee, scored a first by providing a morning coffee-break and buffet lunch on the cricket field behind The Little Angel pub on the first day of the Regatta. The gazebo accommodation was greatly appreciated in staving off the only lunchtime rain of the week. Whilst visiting OB numbers were not large this time, valuable experience was gained for future years. This innovation produced a brief break in the long tradition of Buffalo lunches provided by Alan at his regatta carpark place L3, which of course continued on other days of competition.

Catering support of a similar standard was also provided at the National Schools' Regatta and Reading Town Regatta, thanks to Catering and Services staff. Thames Ditton Regatta was cancelled, but would have been supported.

### **Buffalo Committee Member Annabel Eyres' *The Bryanston Stour & Pitches***

We are very grateful for the significant boost to Buffalo funds from the proceeds of ongoing sales of Annabel's limited edition print entitled *The Bryanston Stour & Pitches*. This fund is confined to supporting pupils attending training camps.

***Anthony Thompson, Chairman of Buffaloes***

## **BRYANSTON BUFFALOES 2014 and 2015:**

*Alan Shrimpton*

### **2014:**

The year saw plenty to celebrate. BSBC received an anonymous gift of a brand new Empacher coxed four, ideal for the four boys in the senior squad.

We used most of the legacy received from the late Peter Bartram (H '51 and 1<sup>st</sup> VIII cox 1949), equipping the boathouse's Ergo Hall with a lap top and large TV screen so that the ergometers could be used for racing. Trading in four old ergometers, we were able to bring in five new ones for the price of three, thus building the total up to fourteen.

At the Buffalo Dinner we enjoyed the reunion of many from the 1<sup>st</sup> and Charon eights of 1962-64, the 1964 cox Paul Hoffman being the after dinner speaker. His speech appeared on the Buffalo page of the School's web site.

### **2015:**

At the Buffalo Dinner, we gave our formal thanks to Graham Elliot for his 22-23 years as Master i/c Rowing. An appeal to former coaches and to the girls he coached brought in the funds to supply him with two bottles of sparkling and a mixed case each of red and white wine (all selected for us by Yapp Bros of Mere), a substantial contribution to the Elliot Cup presented to Graham by the current coaches and at Graham's request a contribution to the cost of filming rowing on the Stour by drone.

The high spot of the year was the arrival of our caterers at three regattas.

The provision of hot drinks and snacks throughout the day and, at National Schools', a full lunch for parents, transformed the whole experience for everyone. Our thanks are due to the School and particularly to Mike Thorne and Richard Ball who worked all day at the regattas and insisted that they enjoyed it. So did we.

In both years we held our normal social events: the Buffalo Buffets in March for the crews in D & C, their coaches and parents; the Buffalo Dinners at Leander Club for the senior crews, their coaches and parents; and the picnics and networking at Henley. With Bryanston likely to be racing at Henley much more regularly in future, I hope to see more O.Bs there.

We are particularly grateful to all who support us in any way, not least to Annabel Eyres (Hn '83, Oxford Blue and 1992 Olympian sculler) who joins the committee. On top of Peter Bartram's legacy and the Empacher four, we have received several generous donations. All of this puts us in a strong position to support the new era in BSBC, starting in September 2015 with Richard Boulton becoming Head of Rowing. Richard coxed the Hampton 1<sup>st</sup> VIII for three years, winning the P.E. in his A Level term; later he returned to Hampton as Head of Rowing and for 2005-2015 he was Lead Coach for GB Juniors.