



KGV Alumni

KING GEORGE V SCHOOL
Summer 2006

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear All

Since our last newsletter there have been some improvements to the structure of the KGV Alumni Association. The most important is the set up of the "Alumni Links Committee". The object of this is to build closer and stronger ties with the school, the PTSA and the students. As Chair of the KGV Alumni Association I am also Chair of this new sub-committee. The school Principal, Ed Wickins, is Vice Chair. Representatives include officers of the Alumni Committee, members of the School Council, teaching staff, the PTSA Coordinator who is also the Alumni Administrator, and two members from the Student Council. The first meeting was held on 29th May. It was resolved we will broaden membership of the Alumni Association to include all pupils and teachers immediately they leave school. This group would automatically become Associate Members at no cost. We would also have a category of Affiliate Members for those who have played an important part in the school and would like to join the Association. We still have the category of Life Members (where there is a \$500 joining fee). All previous Life Members are still included in this category. We feel this latter group has been somewhat neglected over the past few years and we are putting together a package that will enhance the benefits of Life Membership.

Another decision recently finalized is to utilise some of our funds towards an annual Alumni Community Award at Prize Day. The prize of \$500 will be presented to the girl and the boy student elected by teachers and students who have done the most noteworthy thing benefiting the Community.

The Class of '74 Easter Reunion organised by Dave McKirdy and Celia Barrett went very well and a short write up and a selection of photos follows. Such was the success that a small profit of \$3,265 was made. This was recently presented to the school's newly appointed PTSA Coordinator who is also our new Alumni Administrator, Cath Modini. The donation will be put into the PTSA funds and utilized at a later date for something benefiting the school.

This is the second of what will be three annual Alumni newsletters. The next issue will appear in the autumn term with more news on the exciting plans for the 2007 Alumni Reunion Week at the end of September next year.

Until then please stay in touch and let us share your news.

With best wishes

*Eleanor Sackett
Chair
KGV Alumni Committee*



DAVE MCKIRDY PRESENTING THE DONATION TO ALUMNI ADMINISTRATOR CATH MODINI WITH YOUR CHAIR PRESENT

2007 Reunion Update

*Dates are now
Wednesday 26th September to
Monday 1st October*

www.kgvreunion.org

Designed by James Chow '89



Sponsors Needed
Your Logo could be here

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CHANGES AT SCHOOL

by Nassir Yoonus

When I was asked if I would visit the school and gather some information on new developments, I didn't realise how much KGV had expanded from when I was a student some 30 years ago! The school now has three times as many students and a corresponding increase in the number of teachers.

I had the pleasure of meeting with Deborah Eaglestone, Head of Science, Ashley Tranter, Head of Year 9 (equivalent of 3rd Form) and Roger Muscroft who teaches Design & Technology and has added responsibility for Site Management and the school environment, who gave me an insight into what some of these changes were.

Since she joined KGV about 10 years ago, Deborah said one of the biggest changes she has seen was with ICT (Information and Communication Technology). She said great strides have been made both on the organization of the ICT department and the inclusion of various subjects and new equipment such as laptop computers, overhead projectors and a new dimension to teaching and communication called the CLC. The Connected Learning Community is a new method of communicating using the internet. It is private and protected, so students can interact with other students and their teachers. Lessons can be posted on an exclusive website from which students may gather information (ideal for those absent or needing more time) and post their assignments for teachers to assess. They can also communicate with other students to gather information for their homework, exams, projects, and so on. Apparently this concept has been around for a while. KGV embraced it as a result of the SARS epidemic in 2002, when students were kept away from school but could be sent lessons and taught using the internet.

It is clear from the recent developments in ICT that the culture of learning is changing immensely and using the internet, having multilevel communication with unrestricted flow of ideas within this portal seems the way of the future and clearly the way KGV is heading.

Roger highlighted the developments in the landscaping of the school grounds, much of which he initiated. Considerable work has gone into this and now that it's starting to mature the grounds are looking very attractive. Students are now much more concerned about environmental issues so the environment is taken into consideration with all new development projects at KGV. The students participate in annual ESF environmental conferences,



which make them aware of the impact of the environmental damage and the measures which can be undertaken to improve the environment.

I asked about the drawbacks of the changes at KGV. Deborah replied the school has grown too quickly in size and volume. The only reason the school has coped is because it is KGV; any other school in HK would have found it difficult. At some stages of this growth the planning has been quite poor and there have been some administrative burdens. As the school has grown there is less intimacy among the students and teachers. Not everyone can fit in the hall at assembly. Perhaps there has been too much change too quickly.

I asked Ashley what his first impressions were of KGV as a relative newcomer. He was surprised to find a school so big, with a huge field in Hong Kong. He was also impressed at how well behaved the students are. He was also amazed at the quality of the musical performances by the school orchestra. He has never seen anything like this in the UK schools he taught in.

On the positive side both Ashley and Deborah agreed that the school resources have continued to grow. In addition, the commitment and service provided by the non-teaching staff was also incredible. This has made a big difference to the student's achievements and performance of the school as a whole.

All three teachers held the view that tradition is part and parcel of KGV's history and it is very important that we hold onto the values of school uniform, school assemblies, Speech Day and the school fair (now known as KGV Carnival). These traditions make KGV so different from all the other schools in Hong Kong. As Deborah succinctly put it, if we were to lose our traditions, the school will lose its soul, as simple as that! In that respect, the body may have grown and developed but the heart of the school hasn't changed since I left.





by Anders Nelsson

Eleanor Sackett was often followed home after school by love-struck youths, too shy to talk to her but unable to tear themselves away from the athletic Eurasian beauty as she strolled home after a KGV hockey practice or badminton coaching at the India Club. She only recently found out about these secret admirers when an alumnus confessed to the teenage angst he had put himself through over her.

"I remember often having the creepy feeling that someone might be following me," she confesses. "But I always put it down to the slight paranoia brought on by tales of criminal activities my policeman father told us around the dinner table."



ELEANOR IN SIXTH FORM: FRONT ROW FIRST LEFT

Had there in fact been a stalker or mugger around the corner, Eleanor's athletic skills would surely have given her the upper hand. She was girls' pentathlon champion one year and regularly brought home trophies in everything from high jump to discus, hurdles and running-distances from 200 meters to cross country. Even today she walks so quickly that friends often think she has received early warning of a nearby fire or an impending storm. In fact Eleanor's daily calendar is so full that she has to move quickly to keep up.

Hong Kong-born and bred, Eleanor has only spent a few years elsewhere....a year at school in England, working as Regional Marketing Manager for Mothercare in Dubai, as well as a few years getting herself a BA (Hons) degree in Business Studies from the University of Greenwich, England.

During her three years in the Middle East she was involved in organizing the first PGA Golf Tournament in the Gulf for the Emirates Golf Club. The two words 'organising' and 'sports' seem to crop up regularly in any information or conversation about Eleanor Sackett. After a six year stint as Regional Marketing Manager for Nike in Hong Kong much of her work is voluntary, fundraising and charity related.

She is currently the Executive Director of the Matilda Sedan Chair Race Charities Fund and she organizes and promotes the Charity Fund's main community fundraising event which involves an annual sedan chair race followed by a large bazaar. In the past seven years her major accomplishment has been to make the event more multi-cultural, reflecting Hong Kong cosmopolitan population and during this time over \$17 million has been raised for many of Hong Kong's smaller and lesser-known charities. Last year she attracted a record-breaking 57 teams to participate in the event and raised \$3.25 million, also a record.

In a broad hint to KGVers past and present, she has expressed some disappointment that her alma mater has only competed three times

over the past years, "I'm hoping to improve this situation," she says, "both with teams from current pupils as well as an alumni team!"



CLASS 6B AT KOWLOON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Of a Eurasian background with a Chinese mother and English father, Eleanor spent her early childhood in Kowloon Tong and attended St Jude's Kindergarten before enrolling in Kowloon Junior School.

She has fond memories of Kowloon Tong. "The verdant, hilly area extending behind the government quarters in Ede Road, up to where Beacon Hill School now stands was my playground in those days," she reminisces. "It was wonderful to have the freedom and space to roam."



WITH HER BROTHER JOHN IN YOUNGER DAYS

Eleanor arrived at KGV in 1972, starting in Form 2. "After a year at a very strict all girls' grammar school in England it was a bit of a shock to the system," she recalls. "However it didn't take me long to settle, especially as it meant I could play football with the boys at break time!"

Since her schooldays she has developed a passion for squash and is a past Hong Kong Women's Master champion and sits on the Hong Kong Squash

Committee, chairing the Sponsorship and League Ranking Committees. When she's not on the squash courts she is either working out in the gym or jogging.

Away from sport and charity schedules, her time is devoted to her two daughters Kimberley, 15, and Nicola, 11, (neither of whom have followed the KJS/KGV pattern, going instead to Glenealy and Island School), and to running the KGV Alumni Association of which she was recently voted Chair..

She aims to broaden the base of membership in the association which has members all over the world. "Being an ex-KGV'er means having a special link with everyone that has studied there no matter which era they are from. We all share a very special bond. This



AT THE KGV CENTENARY BALL With Corrine Remedios and Noshir Shroff

includes teachers as well as students. As Chair, I want to ensure this is nurtured by encouraging greater networking and communications, strengthening the relationship with the school and updating and maintaining the growing alumni database."



2006 EASTER REUNION

by Dave McKirdy



"Honestas Ante Honores...!"

'We all shared our child-hoods together - in a magical place - that, meeting up again after some 32 years in the entrance hall of KGV on the first evening - time just melted away. There was indeed no need to justify an existence. Rather, being totally accepted then and there by our peers with open arms and hearts was awesome. To say I loved seeing each and every one of you again is the understatement of the year.' Brenda Veenendaal (nee Leighton).

The recent school reunion was a great success with about 25 visitors coming from overseas and the locally based contingent getting well into the swing of things and supporting the various events wholeheartedly. Among the highlights were the two days of school visits where past pupils interacted with the current students and even individually 'taught' a history lesson to various year 7 classes, giving them a flavour of the Hong Kong of our youth. The opportunity to give something back to the school that meant so much to us was a real treat for all concerned and I believe sets a model for future interaction between past and current pupils. The scope for careers advice, mentoring and such like is very wide if

properly exploited.

A number of social events were held throughout the week and nearly 50 people turned up for the '70s disco in the school hall. Other events included a day trip to Lama Island, a tram party, a trip to a Hakka village in Sai Kung Country Park and the finale was a barbecue at the USRC with Alec Reeve as our guest of honour. It was over all too soon and we parted with a lump in our throats and undying promises to keep in touch and for some at least to get together at the Alumni reunion in Hong Kong next September.



STANDING L TO R: ANNE HUGHES (NEE EVANS), BRENDA VEENENDAAL (NEE LEIGHTON) CELIA BARRETT (NEE MITCHELL), SEATED: MANOLO CHALLARAM AND BAAS VEENENDAAL (BRENDA'S HUSBAND)



MUCH SHOCK TO ALL, KATHERINE WOODTHORPE STILL HAS HER SCHOOL UNIFORM AND IT STILL FITS!



ZAK GREGORY, ANN LOUISE GREGORY, PAM GREENFIELD (NEE DELANEY) AND CHARLES CHANG READY TO DISCO!



THE GROUP WHO WENT TO SAI KUNG WITH ALEC REEVE



SALLY TIMBERLAKE (NEE PARTRIDGE), SEAN LEONARD, BHARAT GOHEL ENJOYING A CURRY AT THE KCC



THE TRIP TO LLAMA



CELIA, SHERYL GREEN (NEE ALCOCK), CAROL WHARTON (MARK GILES'S PARTNER)

"Amazing that after 32 years, Gohel still manages to corrupt me! It was a memorable week for me; perhaps the best part was getting to know friends that I did not reach out to in KGV days. We were all on even ground this time; no headmaster's son, sports studs, brains, \$100/week pocket money rich boys, jewellery store guards, popular birds, expats/locals ... just a group of old friends sharing. Thanks again Celia & Dave." - Sean Leonard.

For more photos of the reunion, check our dedicated reunion website www.kgvreunion.org