



## ROUNDWOOD PARK ALUMNI Newsletter 37: March 2022

[www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni](http://www.roundwoodpark.co.uk/alumni)



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***PLEASE forward this newsletter to ex-Roundwood friends and encourage them to make contact to be added to our mailing list.***

### Editorial comment

**Contact - help us to keep in touch! - please inform us of updated emails address and encourage fellow ex-RPS students to get in touch.**

Please give us your feedback on any items contained within or if you wish on any topic that relates to your time here or fellow classmates or staff.

[b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:b.smith@roundwoodpark.co.uk)

### ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

**Natasha Dowie ( 2006 ) swaps Milan for Reading in the WSL.**



Reading FC Women are very pleased to announce the arrival of striker Natasha Dowie, who joins the club after spending the previous season at AC Milan.

A full England international, with a wealth of team and individual trophies over the course of a career that has seen her play in six different countries, Dowie brings invaluable experience to Kelly Chambers' squad as preparations continue for the upcoming campaign.

Dowie, 32, spent a single year with Milan and notched an impressive 14 goals in 24 matches in league and cup... undoubtedly earning a place in the heart of the Rossonere faithful for scoring twice in each of her derby meetings with Inter, in both Serie A and the Coppa Italia.

That was her 17th campaign in football – it all began at Watford for the striker back in 2004, before stints in the capital with Fulham and Charlton.

Her move to Everton in 2007 was quickly rewarded with silverware: she spearheaded a Toffees attack which ended Arsenal's two-year stint without defeat with a 1-0 win in the Women's Premier League Cup final.

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And at the conclusion of the 2010 campaign, she registered twice in the FA Women's Cup final – again it was Arsenal who were vanquished, as Dowie made it 3-2 by netting a 119th-minute winner at the City Ground.

She crossed the Merseyside divide alongside Fara Williams in 2013 to join Liverpool – a move that brought her instant success as she finished her first campaign as WSL leading goalscorer, was voted as FA Players' Player of the Year and selected in the PFA Team of the Year, alongside winning the first of back-to-back league titles.

After three seasons as a Red, Dowie spent the interim between the 2015 and 2016 seasons on loan with Melbourne Victory – her first foray overseas – before joining Doncaster Rovers Belles for a brief stint. That was quickly followed by a permanent move abroad, making the move to NWSL side Boston Breakers, where she twice more she plugged the gap between campaigns with loan stints down under Victory.

After the Breakers were disbanded in early 2018, she headed back to Europe to join reigning Swedish champions Linköping on a short-term deal, before eventually joining Melbourne Victory for a fourth stint – her first permanent spell – in the summer. As captain of the side, she hit the net nine times in 12 fixtures to help Victory to their first W-League Premier title.

Once again occupying her off-season with competitive action, this time her loan spell midway through her two seasons in Melbourne came in the opposite direction as she scored 11 times in 18 appearances for Norwegian side Vålerenga, narrowly missing out on the league title. And then, in 2020, Dowie moved to Milan where she picked up runners-up medals in league and cup – missing out to Juventus in Serie A, and being denied by a penalty shoot-out to Roma in the Coppa Italia final.

## **Athletic Success**

**Josh Woods** ( class of 2020), Birmingham University undergraduate, has competed in the Birmingham University and Cross Country (BUAC) athletic games and has, at his first jump of 14.95m, taken the Gold Medal in the triple jump.



## **DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?**

I have just completed a post graduate certificate in medical image reporting and am now a qualified msk

reporting radiographer. Since sixth form (2009) I studied radiography at city university London and have been at Addenbrookes hospital in Cambridge since 2012. This year has been the hardest of my career with studying and working front line with covid patients in addition to training for and completing the London marathon. Kind regards  
Deborah Beckford (nee South)

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### **Dr Brian Steels (class of 1967?)**



I left the UK in 1967 to travel overland to India and then onto Sri Lanka and later Australia. Although seen as hopeless at school, I did progress to Uni in Oz and was awarded my B.A (Behaviourist) and later my PhD Criminology.

I often think of a couple of teachers. Ms Prideaux introduced me to classical music, and I thank her for that. Mr Jones managed to initially ruin my desire to read (he took me for Literature as well as sports / gym). I retained what french I had absorbed but didn't find it very valuable when working among Aboriginal communities.

I do keep in touch with a couple of people from RP. I've never returned to the site although I visit Wheathampstead and family up to three times a year while attending conferences across EU.

Although retired I spend a part of my life in Asia with PhD students and seminar.

Dr Brian Steels



As a chemist, I recall taking part ( the mid-1980s?) in the **Herts Chemolympiad** which was a countywide competition to find the best school chemists. I recall we had a team of 2 girls and 2 boys across the year groups and even had lunchtime prep sessions. After some preliminary rounds we got to the finals at Hatfield Poly ( now U of Herts) and we beat Haberdashers in the final. Each winner was awarded an engraved spatula and the school received a ZX81 computer. We were also invited to enter a practical team and the 4 boys also won.

I wonder who the team members were? I think it was James Love and 3 others in the theory team and who were the team of 4 that won the practical competition? Incidentally ours was the only team with girls in it!

The school now takes part in a **National Chemolympiad** that was formed later

On another front I recall being accused by my sixth form male tutees of always 'sticking up for the women'! I was reminded of this when I saw the following quote.

"When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life." — Kofi Annan (Former Secretary-General of the United Nations)

### The STAFF INTERVIEW

**Mrs Louise (nee Carter) Martin**  
English Dept.; Literacy and Scholars Coordinator.

*Click on the link to see & hear.*



<https://www.loom.com/share/9d3ea4cd8a2248efb0817cfc4d772b24>

### Future Staff Interviews or staff queries?

Let us know if there is a particular teacher you would like to read about. Also let us know if you like or prefer the audio visual 'interviews'?

If you would like to find out any information about any teacher/member of staff, then please go to alumni/staff news on the school website. This information is patchy on staff that left many years ago and we would welcome any information regarding



incorrect or missing members. With the GDPR situation, many names of staff will be missing as permission is a prerequisite before adding to the list .

### General RPS information

More RPS news can be found on the fortnightly 'Roundup' newsletter on the school website <https://roundwoodpark.co.uk/roundup-newsletters/>

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### Careers Convention

The National Careers Week scheme is a celebration of careers guidance in education across the UK and takes place from the 7th to the 11th March 2022.

Following a mail shoot request earlier, the Careers Dept. are delighted with the response and are looking forward to meeting alumni and for the students to gain valuable and potentially crucial careers guidance.



A huge **thank you** to all those that have responded.



### Letters to the Editor

1. Thanks as always for the newsletter. I really enjoy getting it.NR
2. was in form 2C in 1970/71 and our form teacher was Mrs Cunningham. I was surprised to see she does not appear on the Staff listing section of the Alumni pages of the new website. PT
3. *I hope you are keeping well over what has been a difficult two years!*  
*Please can I update my email address on this list to: MG*
4. I'm currently writing.AC. Yes, and I know someone who is keen to read your next novel.
5. Hi Mr Smith, you taught me chemistry in the early 2000s at Roundwood Park. I'm interested in your thoughts about hydrogen as an energy source and is it something that is viable to replicate the fossil fuel industry. DC.

6. I just thought I'd send an update as the info on me has now become out of date as I've returned to my former career in Biomedical Science.  
So, something like this ' After gaining a BSc [Biomedical Sciences] and an MSc [Public Health Nutrition], Julia worked as a Nutritionist with Enfield council for 14 years and has now returned to her first career in Biomedical Science at the Lister Hospital". Best wishes, Julia
7. I just wondered if the newsletter was still going and if so, if I could be added to the mailing list for it please? I remember you taught me chemistry (I was Jo Kenyon then and was at Roundwood between 1992 and 1999). I have lots of very fond memories of the school! Many thanks, Jo
8. Thank you, I look forward to receiving the next newsletter. I have enjoyed watching the videos on the Roundwood website, especially the promotional video from the early 1990s that Hayden Luke arranged. It was a couple of years before my 1994 reign but it all looked the same; brilliant! MG
9. Thanks! I loved my time at RPS..... my nephew is now in year 10! LC.  
*That's great news and we always like to hear that our alumni are sending their children and relations to us.*
10. Let's start a conversation? NG, FL, TH, ES.  
*Always pleased to be contacted through LinkedIn. (Hopefully contact details for all our LinkedIn alumni are kept updated)*
11. Thank you. KS, PF, NC. *Every contact counts.*
12. Thank you for the continues emails on updates on the newsletter. NK. *Our pleasure.*
13. Hi Mr Smith, you taught me chemistry in the early 2000s at Roundwood Park. I'm interested in your thoughts about hydrogen as an energy source and is it something that is viable to replicate the fossil fuel industry. DC
14. I was in your A level Chemistry class  
Rachel (nee Fox) Crosbee (class of '87)  
*Delighted to hear from Rachel and thanks to the power of the alumni network that put us in touch after all these years.*

15. Dr Smith .....CAKE! “a unique combination of sarcastic wit and genuine kindness.” CC. *Hmmm - guilty as charged perhaps?*  
16.

### Staff changes

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**Ms Jessica Jackson** (Jan 2020 – Jan 2022). Employee liaison and events coordinator.

**Mrs Janet Titman**, (Apr 2016-Mar 2022) – Science technician.

**Mrs Wendy Miller**, (Apr 2004-Mar2022) – Café Manager.

### WEDNESDAY VISITS

The situation at school, as in the country, is potentially ever changing as further guidance is directed.

Should you wish to visit please contact us.

Mask wearing, at least, will be expected.



**If you would like to visit please email me and I will see what we can arrange.**

### STOP PRESS

**Ms Cara Manton (class of 1992)** is now the School's Trip Advisor in the admin office of Roundwood Park. She joins Alumnae Catherine Croft and Karen McHale.

A baby Grand Piano has been donated to the school by ex-teacher of maths, Mrs **Betty Wolfenden** via her son Tim (class of 1984?).

The Music dept. are delighted with their new acquisition.



**Any comments/memories/photos of your time with us or your recent news will be greatly appreciated by all our readers.**

**Best wishes to all our readers**

**BMLS**  
(editor)