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The British Sporting Art Trust is extremely grateful to The Sladmore Gallery for kindly sponsoring this Newsletter.

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### THE RECEPTION AND AUCTION AT THE TURF CLUB AFTER THE PAUL MELLON LECTURE



Photograph by Richard Bateman

The lecture was completely sold out – not even standing room. This was followed by an auction with many tempting lots, which raised much needed funds for the British Sporting Art Trust. The magnum of champagne in the raffle was won by Richard Bateman, who was editor of this Newsletter for many years. The Turf Club was a perfect setting for the event, with its own collection of sporting pictures. The hospitality was excellent and every one enjoyed a splendid evening.

*Peter Jensen (Chairman of the BSAT Trustees) and BSAT Patron Sir Samuel Whitbread at the auction. The auctioneer was Tom Tyrwhitt-Drake. The auction and champagne reception were generously sponsored by the Hot to Trot Racing Club - www.hottotrottracingclub.com*

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### THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE HONOURS SEFTON

*In 2009 Peter Johnson, Honorary Art Advisor for the Royal Veterinary College, contacted Camilla Le May, a member of the BSAT, to ask if she would be interested in being Artist in Residence at a college and it might also involve a sculpture commission too. Soon after all was set in motion. By January 2010 Camilla (who specialises in animal subjects and was recipient of a BSAT sculpture award in 2007) was made the inaugural Artist in Residence at the RVC, thought to be the first initiative of its type in any UK veterinary school. The residency involved Camilla giving sculpting workshops for the RVC students as well as a commission to sculpt Sefton.*

*The sculpture of Sefton was to commemorate the extraordinary service given by animals in our nation’s armed forces and to celebrate the College’s long history of educating veterinary surgeons who serve and who care for military animals. The Household Cavalry horse Sefton was terribly injured in the bombing at Hyde Park in July 1982. Four men and seven horses died. The nation felt a fierce outrage and terrible grief in equal measure for the lost and injured lives. Sefton emerged as a symbol of the nation’s response; surviving and thriving he ensured the atrocity is remembered for the courage he symbolised. Funds were donated by the general public to the RVC and the Sefton Equine Hospital was built. The hospital was made to work hard for 25 years but progress is rapid in surgical practice and it was replaced in 2010. However the RVC decided it must not lose its association with Sefton and the new life size statue will stand on the footprint of the old hospital. The College is enormously grateful to its Honorary Fellow, Lord Ballyedmond OBE, for funding this important commission.*

*Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles OBE is the patron of the Sefton project and an Honorary Fellow of the College. At the time of the bombing, the then Lieutenant-Colonel Parker Bowles was the Regiment’s Commanding Officer and was quickly at the scene. He and many others who knew Sefton (from his various riders, to vets and farriers who looked after Sefton) have provided detailed briefings for the artist to capture the character and spirit of a great horse who is no longer with us.*

*Camilla felt especially honoured to be chosen, having never done a life size horse before and in early 2010 she produced a small bronze maquette of Sefton (pictured here), which is now being sold in a limited edition for fundraising purposes. The pose of Sefton walking with head slightly turned was inspired by two photos showing him fully recovered and full of life, one walking free in a field and the other was of him being led in hand by Trooper Michael Pedersen who rode him on that fated day. The life size clay was finished in mid 2011 and is presently being cast in bronze for unveiling later this year.*

*“It has been wonderful to see this work from its beginnings and now seemingly to be meeting an old friend again. I remember Sefton for his courage and also for his indomitable spirit. For me he epitomises the finest qualities we see in our armed forces. Camilla Le May has captured Sefton’s character; she has got him right.”*

*Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles OBE*



Photograph by Darrin Jenkins