

MINUTES OF THE JOHN FISHER OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION AGM
28th January 2005

Present: Neil Ockenden (Chairman) John Albertini
Michael Drury (Secretary) Michael Farrin (Treasurer)
Michael Thelwell Michael Harewood Maurice Reaney
David Griffiths John Bennett

Apologies: P Bennett S Drury D Ponikwer A Curtis P McWilliam R Alston
T Finnegan Bishop Tripp P Attridge C de'Ath J Dodwell
H Dunn-Meynell D Tillson K Ockenden

Meeting opened at 8.20

- 1 Neil Ockenden presented his report, which was circulated to those present. In addition to his report Neil said that he was trying to encourage participation in the Old Boy's football section by the recent school leavers. He has spoken to Mike Simpson who is sympathetic. The Association are trying to foster relations between the school and the Old Boys and to perhaps run a colts team as the school is now playing soccer again. There are perhaps sponsorship and other opportunities that we could pursue. Maurice said he thought it was sad that the 75th Anniversary dinner was not at the school. It was pointed out that there was a lot of hard work involved in organising it at the school.
- 2 Membership. Mike Thelwell produced a chart of membership numbers which showed a small increase in those from a year ago. Mike also has a list of those who have never paid anything and it was suggested that at the end of this jubilee year those who show no interest or do not respond to a request for a subscription, should be removed. The amount of interest that the website is generating together with some 2000 old boys who are registered on Friends Reunited is a source of people we should be able to tap into. Mike pointed out that it was not easy to send a round robin to these people as Friends Reunited have restrictions as to what can be done so they would have to be addressed individually. A discussion ensued about the best ways of contacting people and obtaining addresses. John Bennett said he would contact Simon Drury to see if he could help in keeping the website up to date. Neil emphasised that we are working hard on keeping in contact with those who have recently left the school.
- 3 Treasurer. Mike Farrin presented his account which showed a balance in hand of £1589.44 at the year end. So far this year there is £684 to be transferred from the Sports Club. It was emphasised that anyone who is a member of The Old Boy's Association is automatically a social member of the Sports Club with an extra subscription to be paid for participation in sports activities. Mike Thelwell said that we should remember that it is a tradition that we have a portrait commissioned of the headmaster, which will have to be paid for and thought that it would probably cost about £500. He also thought that the Open Day would cost us money but until the day is further advanced in planning there was no idea as to how much would be involved.
- 4 Election of Officers. As no one had put themselves forward or been proposed and the current serving officers were willing to stand again, Michael Harewood proposed all should be re-elected. Maurice Reaney seconded the motion which was passed.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm



A.G.M. FRIDAY, 28th JANUARY 2005 - CHAIRMANS' REPORT

The notes of the Special General Meeting held on 24th January 2003 have been circulated. That meeting gave authority to the Committee to lease the Clubhouse and Sports Ground to the newly formed John Fisher Sports Club. This action was taken as the means to revitalise the Association and to enable the Old Boys' Football and Cricket Sections to achieve a future viability by forming the new sports club with Hamsey Rangers Football Club, who are locally based.

I am pleased to report that the lease was granted to the John Fisher Sports Club in October 2003. Our thanks are due to John Albertini, who once again was our legal mastermind in these negotiations. The arrangements agreed under the lease are working well. The Sports Club has proved financially viable and the additional local interest has given them encouragement for the future.

The Committee has met on a bi-monthly basis exploring the role of the Association and consolidating its ability to foster friendship between Old Boys and to support the School and its Catholic ethos.

In April 2003, the mailing list for Maurice's excellent Newsletter numbered 270. Many of these had not paid a subscription for many years. Michael Thelwell, who has laboured long and hard to increase the membership, will give details of the present numbers. It was agreed that the annual subscription should be set at £10.00, which it is believed will cover the administration costs of the Association as our trusty Treasurer, Michael Farrin will verify.

As a means of broadening communications with Old Boys' and with the hope of increasing the membership, the Old Boys' website has been set up. We are very much indebted to Simon Drury for applying his expertise, as well as a great deal of his time, in bringing this project to fruition. Indeed, it has borne fruit. Informal contact has been maintained, and is being developed, with the Sports Club and Purley John Fisher Rugby Club - Brian Whicher has been most supportive in the latter case. The Association has a part to play in fostering good relations between these two clubs and The John Fisher School. It is, of course, in our own interest to develop good communications with the Old Boys playing for those clubs.

The golf section is flourishing. The 30 Section goes from strength to strength - especially those brave souls who embark on the annual walk ! There has been limited support for the Annual Dinner at the School and the annual Mass in honour of St John Fisher. This year, in the School's 75th Jubilee year, a special effort is being made to promote better support for both these occasions. The Old Boys' Dinner is being held at Woodcote Park Golf Club whose amenities and catering offer a considerable improvement on those at the School. Duncan Ponikwer, with the support of Peter Bennet, will be working hard to make this a very special occasion. The date for your diary is Saturday, 16th April : more information to follow. The Mass in honour of St John Fisher is being incorporated in an Old Boys' Open Day which will take place on Sunday, 26th June to celebrate the Jubilee.

The Headmaster, Robin Gregory, is retiring at the end of this School year.

He will leave the School in remarkably good health. The Ofsted report last term said that " it is a good school, with very good features. Leadership by the Headmaster is very good, involving all in developing the very positive ethos of the school.... Teaching and learning and achievement are good". There was special praise for the Sixth Form which now has 214 pupils.

The new Sports Hall costing in the region of £1.5mn and which was opened by Sir Bobby Robson on 21st January 2005, is a magnificent facility for all the boys. The 1st XV are playing in the quarter finals of the Daily Mail Competition next Wednesday. We wish them every success. The School Choir is deservedly renowned far and wide for its quality. At least three students went up to Oxbridge last term. As a Headmaster is always given the blame when things go wrong, it is only right that he, and his excellent and committed staff, should be given credit when things go so well. We wish him well.

We were all sad to learn of the deaths of Fr Edmund O'Shea and Mr William Mogford. It is a tribute to both of them that so many Old Boys and representatives of the School attended their funerals which were, unfortunately, on the same day.

You may not have heard that Fr Richard Fawssett decided to call it a day on 6th January - if he had stayed until half-term, he would have been at the School for 55 years! He made a great contribution to the School in so many ways and, indeed, to the Old Boys' Association. He is now living, and is very happy, at Wickham Court Nursing Home, Layhams Road, West Wickham. He enjoys receiving visitors.

Two long serving Old Boys retired from our Committee in the past year. Colin De'Ath, who has put so much into the Old Boys over so many years as player, Captain, Committee man and loyal supporter, decided to retire from the Committee. His experience and independence of mind have made a strong contribution to the Committee during this re-forming phase. Maurice Reaney retired from the Committee in the summer. I believe he was first involved with the Old Boys in the 1940's. His length of service as a player with the soccer section must merit a mention in the Guinness Book of Records. He has been Chairman of the Association and now of the 30 Section. His magnum opus is, of course, the Newsletter as a result of which his literary talents are so widely admired. His easily readable style, clarity, liveliness, sensitivity, humour even though on some subjects it is rather acerbic, his envy in matters relating to the 200 Club and his journalistic gossip have ensured that the newsletter is promptly and widely read. I could go on and on, but I will conclude by saying on behalf of all Old Boys : thank you Maurice.

In summary, I think that the foundations have been laid on which the Association can be developed to provide a force for good fellowship among Old Boys and for on-going support for the School. Our big challenge will be to increase the numbers of the membership. I believe it can be done. Your Committee is committed to this objective and in conclusion, I would like to thank each one of them, and especially Michael Drury our conscientious Secretary, for the contribution they have made and for the time they have given to making this transition a basis of optimism for the future.

Neil Ockenden

John Fisher Old Boys' Association

Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 30th September 2004

Income

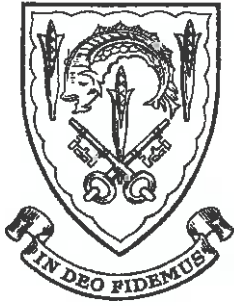
Subscriptions	£	1,747
Rent	£	500
Profit on Dinner		50
		<hr/> 2,297

Expenditure

Printing & Stationery	£	344
Postage	£	291
Advertising		50
Hire of wine glasses		23
		<hr/> 708
		<hr/> <u>£1,589.00</u>

Represented by Bank Balance at 30th September 2004

£1,589.00



THE JOHN FISHER

OLD BOY'S ASSOCIATION

11 Warwick Road,
Coulston
Surrey
CR5 2EF

Tel: 020 8660 0452

Email: michael.drury10@btopenworld.com

6th January 2005

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY 2005
AT 8.00pm
At the John Fisher Sports Club Clubhouse
Limpsfield Road, Warlingham.**

This letter gives notice of the First Annual General Meeting of the re-formed Old Boys Association. Please show your support and make every effort to attend. The committee will report on what has been achieved so far and will indicate its plans for the future. The views of the members will be sought on these plans and on their own ideas for the future. If you do not attend your contribution will be missed! Afterwards there will be the opportunity for a social drink or two.

AGENDA

- 1 Chairman's report
- 2 Treasurer's report
- 3 Election of officers: The present incumbents who are standing for re-election are:

Chairman	Neil Ockenden	
Secretary	Michael Drury	
Treasurer	Michael Farrin	
Membership	Michael Thelwell	
Members	John Albertini	Peter Bennett
	Simon Drury	Bryan Whicher
	Duncan Ponikwer	

Further nominations would be welcomed. There is currently one vacancy on the committee. Nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Michael Drury, at the above address by 21st January 2005.

Michael Drury (Secretary)

R E M I N D E R

SATURDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY 2005

THE JOHN FISHER SCHOOL 75TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

1929 - 2004

This is a unique opportunity to celebrate the School's history, its present and its future. There is much to be celebrated and even more to be remembered !

As you know, on Saturday, 5th February, a splendid Dinner has been arranged as part of the Jubilee celebrations. This will be a prestige event in the new School Sports Hall. Already over eighty Old Boys and their guests have applied to come. There is still time to apply to the Headmaster's Secretary for tickets. The tickets are £40.00 per head. There is a Champagne Reception before the four-course dinner, which will be prepared and served by outside caterers to a high standard. The only extra cost will be for the purchase of wine, brandy and port on the night. This is a black tie event.

The Speakers for the evening will be Professor Jack Scarisbrick (Emeritus Professor of History, Warwick University, Chairman of Life and an Old Boy of the School), Mr Jim Moir (Former Director of Light Entertainment at the B.B.C.) and Mr Robin Gregory, Headmaster.

I believe that the presence of Old Boys will make a considerable contribution to making this celebration of the life of the School a great success. Please decide to come and encourage you friends to form a table with you. Tables will be made up for ten people. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or the School if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Ockenden
Chairman

32, Farm Lane, Purley, Surrey. CR8 3PU. Tel: 0208660 4989

30. 9. 04

<u>Income</u>	Subs	1746.57	
	rent	500.00	
	light on bus	<u>50.50</u>	2297.07

Expend.

rent - stat	343.93	
postage	291.24	
Advertising	50.00	
fare of bus	<u>22.44</u>	707.63

✓ 1589.44

Represented by bank balance
as at 30/9/04.

1589.44

