

MINUTES OF THE JOHN FISHER OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION AGM

20th January 2006

Present: Neil Ockenden (Chairman) John Albertini Michael Drury (Secretary)
Michael Farrin (Treasurer) Michael Thelwell Michael Harewood
Maurice Reaney Simon Drury Keith Boyle John Barrie Duncan Ponikwer

Apologies: D Goodridge Richard Burford Terry King Tony Curtis
David O'Connell David Griffiths Jas Weir Hugo Dunn-Meynell Tony Winters
Paul Cheeseman Keith Ockenden Tony Lovegrove Tony Ockenden

Meeting opened at 8.20

- 1 Neil Ockenden presented his report, which was circulated to those present. A copy of the report is attached. Maurice Reaney gave great praise to Neil's report, who either through embarrassment or the fear of the insults that he thought would probably follow, Neil moved swiftly on to say that he would send the Association's good wishes to Terry King who has recently had a pacemaker fitted and was therefore unable to attend.
- 2 Finance. Mike Farrin presented the Income & Expenditure account for the year. John Barrie thought that the cost of the Headmaster's portrait was very reasonable. It was noted that the association is running at a small surplus. A copy of this report is attached
- 3 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 nem con.
- 4 Our mailing list is now about 200. Neil felt that the Association was important in that it should support the school and provide a facility for past pupils to maintain contacts with other old boys. He felt it was a 'generations' thing but wondered how to attract people who maintain contacts with other old boys to join the association and thereby enrich the whole. John Barrie thought that the website was crucial as a sort of 'Fishers reunited'. Duncan Ponikwer, having finished the bag of fish and chips he brought with him, thought the newsletter was mostly filled with 'oldies'. He told us that John Sullivan had organised a get together at the Jolly Farmers of those who left school about 30 years ago to which about 20 turned up. John Sullivan would be a good point of contact and others should be found from different eras who could do a similar job. Duncan felt that the banter from that and similar evenings should be reflected in the newsletter. (It can't be put in if Maurice doesn't know about it – how about a report on the evening Duncan). Mike Farrin said that the sports club was a great point of contact in the old days where the young membership could be nurtured. About 150 leave the school each year and it was felt that we should be able to attract 10 or so from that number each year. Friends Reunited is another good source. Mike Thelwell said that we were having a problem convincing younger people that they were getting something they were interested in for their £10. Duncan suggested a flyer in the school leavers' letter giving the website address as they are much more au fait with electronic communications. Mike Thelwell gave the membership figures. Ken Boyle said when he met up with any Old Boys he was amazed how many still live around Purley. He is in his 50s and wonders what happened to his contemporaries – perhaps an advert or article in local papers might produce some response.

- 5 Charitable Trust. John Albertini said that there are two Charitable Trusts associated with the school and we do not need to set up another which can be a long and costly process. Any Old Boy who wishes to leave something for the benefit of the school could do so through one of these two. This should be pointed out in the Newsletter and on the website.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 20th JANUARY 2006

Chairman's Report

The first half of 2005 was dominated by the continuation of the Celebrations of the School's 75th Anniversary of its foundation. The Jubilee Dinner on 5th February in the School's new Sports Hall was a major success. 285 people sat down to an excellent dinner. There were about 90 Old Boys present with their ladies. Speeches from Professor Jack Scarisbrick, Jimmy Buttress and Robin Gregory, the Headmaster, were of the highest quality. Perhaps the most rewarding part of the evening was the way those present moved around the tables between courses, meeting up with old friends. It was indeed a very happy evening.

The next event was the Old Boys' Annual Dinner which, in view of the Jubilee, was held at Woodcote Park Golf Club. The venue and the good food provided the foundation of a very enjoyable evening for the 75 who attended. It is true to say that one or two members, particularly, Maurice Reaney, were rather wistful about the move from the School Hall. I would like to thank Duncan Ponikwer for his energy in putting together this successful event.

An attempt to arrange a Jubilee Golf day involving parents, staff, boys and Old Boys failed to raise enough numbers to make the day viable. Although, in the event, nearly 20 people turned up on the day to play a sociable round of golf.

The final Old Boys' event for the 75th year was the Open Day at the School on Sunday, 25th June. Bishop Howard Tripp celebrated Mass in the School Chapel, supported by Deacon Paul Strickland who travelled up from the West Country for the day. Afterwards there was a Buffet Lunch and Bar in the Hall. We were rather disappointed that only about a hundred attended as opposed to over 500 for the School's Golden Jubilee. Nevertheless, those who came seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. There were certainly a number of members who do not attend the usual functions but travelled quite long distances to be there. We were delighted to see them. The highlight of the occasion was the presentation to the School of a portrait of the retiring Headmaster, Robin Gregory, which has become a tradition of the Association. Robin received the portrait on behalf of the School, as well as copy for himself, and was clearly delighted with the likeness. It can be viewed on the wall of the staircase leading up to the Headmaster's room in company with Robin's predecessors.

The School completed their Anniversary with a Party in the Park on the School field in Peaks Hill. A very lively occasion. A great deal of hard work was put into the organisation of all these events and the Old Boys' Association played a significant part in that organisation. It was very helpful in bringing the School and the Old Boys closer together.

As far as the Association itself is concerned, it is true to say that the Anniversary celebrations diverted much of our attention away from our intentions to develop the Association in its new form. However, there were many achievements to be grateful for. First, I would once again like to pay tribute to Maurice Reaney for his splendid Newsletter which continues to inform, cajole, entertain and occasionally insult the members. It is a very heavy undertaking to produce such a quality product three times a year. We have every reason to be most grateful to Maurice for his devotion to this lifeblood of the Association.

Following in his footsteps, electronically, is Simon Drury who has set up and maintained the Website for the Old Boys. This has produced a large number of hits and 43 people have registered their interest so far. It is very early days in this development and we hope that, in the years to come, this will prove to be a very important way for the Association to have contact with a much wider range of Old Boys. Our thanks are therefore due to Simon for his expertise and hard work.

Michael Thelwell has done Trojan work in analysing and sorting out the membership. For many years we have continued to send the Newsletter to a number of Old Boys who have let their subscriptions lapse. In the Jubilee year, we decided to continue to spread the message as widely as we could. After much discussion, we have since decided to write to about 90 members to advise them that if we do not receive their current subscription we will stop sending them the Newsletter. We are hoping that this will induce many of them to fork up ! I would like to thank Michael for all his hard work in this area.

Michael is also the mainstay of the 30 Section. The Ramble in May for the energetic few, the Lunch in July which attracts the more sedentary among us and the Dinner at Woodcote Park Golf Club for members and their ladies who enjoy the good things in life, once again proved that there is plenty of life in the 30 Section.

The Golf Section enjoyed their Annual Meeting at Knole Park, Sevenoaks on 9th September. This is an ideal Club and course for an enjoyable day's or afternoon's golf. The section is always looking for newcomers. The informal afternoon's golf before the 30 Section Dinner is always a pleasant golfing event. The Association should be very proud of Kieron Staunton, who left the School about 3 or 4 years ago, and who has qualified for the full European professional tour only two years after turning professional. We wish him every success in the years to come.

As yet, we have only tenuous links with Purley John Fisher Rugby Club, the John Fisher Old Boys Soccer and Cricket Sections. We will be working in the coming year to develop our contacts with them

We will also be devoting a lot of attention to extending our membership to the middle and younger generations of Old Boys. We would be pleased to hear any suggestions from our present membership on how we may achieve this.

Our final occasion in 2005 was the Mass in the School Chapel on Remembrance Sunday for all those connected with the School who have died. Old Boy Canon Jim Pannett said the Mass, supported by Deacon Joe Parsons. Canon Jim had arranged for a Fisher boy to sound the Last Post immediately after Maurice Reaney had finished reading out the names from our Book of Remembrance. It was beautifully played and was most moving.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee with an especial mention for Michael Drury, our Secretary, and Michael Farrin, our Treasurer.

Neil Ockenden

John Fisher Old Boys' Association

Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 30th September 2005

	<u>2005</u>		<u>2004</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Subscriptions		1,389		1,747
Rent		500		500
Sale of Ties		129		-
Profit on Dinner		100		50
		<u>2,118</u>		<u>2,297</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Printing, Stationery & Advertising	478		394	
Postage	561		291	
Open Day	249		-	
Web site	164		-	
Hire of wine glasses			23	
Portrait of Headmaster	438		-	
Other expenses				
		<u>1,890</u>		<u>708</u>
		228		1,589
Add Balance brought forward		1,589		-
	£	<u><u>1,817</u></u>	£	<u><u>1,589</u></u>
represented by				
Bank Balance at 30th September 2005	£	<u><u>£1,817</u></u>	£	<u><u>1,589</u></u>

John Fisher Old Boys' Association

Income & Expenditure Account -Year ended 30th September 2005

	2004	2005	
Income			
Subscriptions	£1,747.00	£1,389.00	
Rent	£500.00	£500.00	
Sale of Ties		£129.00	
Profit on Dinner	£50.00	£100.00	
Total		<u>£2,118.00</u>	
Expenditure			
Printing & Stationery	£344.00	£478.00	
Postage	£291.00	£561.00	
Open Day		£249.00	
Web Site		£164.00	
Portrait of Headmaster		£438.00	
Total		<u>£1,890.00</u>	
Excess of Income over expenditure 2005			£228.00
Balance B/F from 2004			<u>£1,589.00</u>
			£1,817.00
Represented by Bank Balance at 30th September 2005			£1,817.00

John Fisher Old Boys' Association

Income & Expenditure Account

Year ended 30th September 2005

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	£	£	£	£
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Rent		500		500
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