

MINUTES OF THE JOHN FISHER OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION AGM

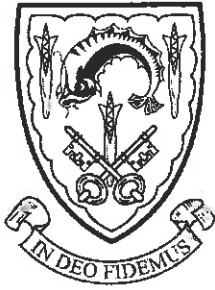
3rd April 2009

Present: Simon Drury Michael Drury (Secretary) Michael Farrin (Treasurer)
Michael Thelwell John Bennett

Apologies: Maurice Reaney R Wood Neil Ockenden John Albertini Tom O'Brien
Tony Curtis Tony Keast Peter Haynes Colin de'Ath

Meeting opened at 8.45

- 1 Simon Drury circulated his report, a copy of which is attached. The key points of the report are to have an on line directory and to resurrect the Annual Dinner. He will also try and attend the Leavers party again this year, hopefully at the correct venue. Mike Thelwell said that 70% of enquiries are from recent leavers. Mike Farrin said he thought that one of the younger members could get articles from other members of their generation and send them to Maurice so that the newsletter has more relevance for the newer members. Mike Thelwell will supply electronic copy of newsletter to Simon who will put extracts on website. Mike Farrin suggested Geof Berreto, chairman of the sports club, be invited to be an associate member. Simon also said that Mark Scully, the headmaster, had asked to meet with him to discuss what the school can do to help the Old Boys and what we can do to help the school.
- 2 Finance. Mike Farrin presented the Income & Expenditure account for the year, a copy of which is attached and shows a surplus of £1,479. The current balance in the bank is £5,735.
- 3 Membership. Mike Thelwell reported that we had 213 members, 28 prospective members, 2 deaths, 17 widows and 100 who had registered on email and a further 2,300 Old Boys who had registered on Friends Reunited.
- 4 Election of Officers. Neil Ockenden has said that he will not seek re-election. There being no other candidates all the officers, apart from Neil, were re-elected.
- 5 There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm



The John Fisher Old Boys Association

AGM 4th April 2009

Chairman's Report

Does one start or end the report with thank yous? Well I will start with them by saying thank you to my colleagues on the committee who have again given of their time freely, without thought of reward or adulation.

My thank s to:

Neil Ockenden – Neil has continued his support of the committee and particularly myself this year and he has organised both the Mass in celebration of the feast day of St John Fisher and the annual mass of remembrance which were both well, if not spectacularly attended. However after only he knows how long on the committee, he has asked to stand down this year and although my inclination is to refuse the request I don't feel I can and we will be very sad not to have him diligently checking proceedings at the meetings, it could result in a free for all but let us hope not. My thanks and gratitude to Neil for all that he has done and I hope that he will continue to help us in the preparation of the Masses and anything else I can persuade him on.

Michael Farrin – Treasurer, I know the finances are not to onerous but thank you for keeping them in order.

Michael Drury (Dad) – Secretary, ever present at the meetings and makes sure I normally turn up.

Michael Thelwell – Membership. Mike not only keeps track of our membership, but also runs the 30 section which is, to be honest, the heart of the association at present.

Duncan Ponikwer, I think Duncan is still on the committee but he is a very busy man and can't always make the meetings ☺ but he has certainly taken over organising the Golf Day every year with Bob Whicher.

Maurice Reaney – Maurice continues to produce three entertaining and informative newsletters each year but would love to receive more articles to include. They can be sent to newsletter@jfoba.co.uk or to me and I will ensure Maurice receives them.

The key events in the Old Boys Calendar in 2008 were the Mass in honour of St John Fisher in June, the Remembrance day Mass in November, the Golf Day at Knole park in September, the 30 Section Summer Ramble and the 30 Section Dinner preceded by the Woodcote Trophy, all of which were well attended but it would always be nice to see more old boys at events.

There was no annual dinner in 2007 or 2008 but see my thoughts below.

As I said last year, the chairman's report has three aims, to thank all those who have contributed to the running of the association, to summarise the activities of the year which are covered far more eloquently and in more detail by the Newsletter and lastly to layout a view of the future of the association.

I have recently sent out a letter to all old boys that I could find some kind of contact for, be it email or conventional mail. My aim was to try to find out what Old Boys wanted from the association the sport sections continue with varying amounts of success but certainly with their own tribulations, the current economic climate puts pressure on everyone and subscriptions, social events and bar takings all suffer, restricting the vital cash flow that any club needs and so it is at times like the present that it is even more important for us to contact as many old boys as possible for their support.

I am pleased to say that I have had a fantastic response to my letter, people have written to me from as far afield as Australia, New York, Hong Kong , nearer to home from Bristol and plenty from Purley and it's environs.

What comes through very clearly is that the affinity that I feel with the school and the importance that I place upon it and the relationship with other old boys, is shared by most JF Old Boys and so I believe the main job of the association over the coming years will be to improve the ability of old boys to reach and communicate with each other. We are in an exciting age, the internet, email and text make communication easier and quicker than it has ever been and I want us to be able to use what ever mediums we can, to link old boys together. To do that we need the support of people with greater knowledge than I have, but I am sure that we can create a secure digital directory that could include contact details, years at the school, current area of residence and possibly even occupation/business. So that we can not only contact old friends but if we want to we can look to old boys for the goods and services that we buy everyday. There is work to be done to achieve it and we need the ideas and skills of more Old Boys to achieve it but I am sure we can develop the old boys in whatever way we choose.

Another thing that did come through from the replies was that people would like to see the annual dinner return and so I hope to be able to find an appropriate time in either the Autumn 2009 or Spring 2010 to hold a dinner at the school.

I am keen to strengthen the links with the school and will be having a meeting with Mark Scully, the Headmaster, over the Easter break to discuss Ideas that he and some of the other teachers have, as to how the association and school can work together to develop the school and the association. We wrote to all school leavers last year and will continue the same each summer in the hope that we can start the records with boys as soon as they leave the school.

Thank you again to everyone who has supported the Association this year, I look forward to next year and hopefully the involvement of many more.

Simon Drury – 3rd April 2009
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