



The Old Priorian Association

St Benedict's, Ealing, 54 Eaton Rise, London W5 2ES

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Saturday 10th November 2007 11.00am

Annual General Meeting - held in the Benet Club, Ealing Abbey (Orchard Hall not available because of School Redevelopment Works)

Attending: Richard Baker (1959), Margaret Moore (Administrator), Basil Nickerson (1994), Peter Watson (1952), Mike Ainslie (1980), Anthony Baker (1958), Chris Cleugh (Headmaster), Rob Simmons (Junior School Headmaster), Paul Fagan (1991), David Murphy (1954), Lewis Hill (1975), Martin Russell (1953), Gregory Stafford (2001).

Apologies for absence: Dom Thomas Stapleford (Chaplain), Catherine de Cintra (Bursar), Anthony Havery (1958), Frank Casali (1984), John Notley (1958), Michael Davis (1964), Ben Middlemiss (1998), Brian Taylor (1960), Malcolm Upton (1961), Mary Keal (1983), David Randell (1957), Philip Hopley (1984), Peter Hearn (1967), Tony Morwood-Leyland (1966).

Opening prayer: Chris Cleugh opened the meeting.

Minutes of 2006 AGM: Minutes for 2006 approved and seconded Mike Ainslie and Peter Watson.

President's Report

With reference to recent Microsoft activities specifically in relation to 'Facebook' (combined with growing public interest and activity on other online social networking websites) and information available in the public sector, PF re-emphasised the importance and value of networking and 'networks' There followed a brief resume of the OPA activity since 2006 AGM. It has been an eventful year.

- Nov 06* Saw the deaths of both Dom Bernard Orchard and Dom Kevin Horsey, both on the same day 28/11/06. May they Rest in Peace.
- Dec 06* 2005 Leavers Reunion Party (Vith formers and leavers 2004, 2005, 2006)
- Dec 06* OPA Presentation to Phelim and Geraldine on retirement from Benet Bar.
- Mar 07* Saw 85 OPs and their guests attending the President's Dinner at the Royal Overseas League Club at St James' (present were 6 past Presidents and 3 past Heads of school. Deemed a success.
- May 2007* Richard Sandys' announced news of his diagnosis to Council.
- Jun 07* The OP Golf Day was this year held at Richmond Golf Course: 27 golfers participated. This was won by Philip Hopley
- Jul 2007* Saw the 'recent leavers' party and was well attended contact information gathered.
- Jul 07* Council meeting was postponed
- Jul 07* The 2007 Annual Cricket Match (OPA vs The School)/Family day event was well attended. This Limited Over event (35 max) was won by the OP by 40 runs.
- Aug 07* the Association supported a jazz evening @ Perivale organised by Ben Plocki (a recent leaver.)
- Sep 07* Bill Twist 7- aside tournament: won by St Nicholas Old Boys who beat Jet Set 33-31. This event was co-ordinated by Edd Conway.
- Sep 07* the Association presented Richard Sandys with a commemorative engraved platter as he stepped down from post.
- Oct 07* OPA fencing event was held in Junior School organised by Mathew Gale (i/c fencing at the School) and Adrian Kellett(57)

PF discussed the OPA Website: over 5000 hits on the website with the 'Where are you now' and

Elected Officials

Paul Fagan
President

Lewis Hill
Hon Secretary

Mike Ainslie
Hon Treasurer

Council Members

Frank Casali

Mary Keal

Gregory Stafford

Peter Watson

Emma York

Ex-Officio Members

Fr Thomas Stapleford
Chaplain

Chris Cleugh
Senior School
Headmaster

Rob Simmons
Junior School
Headmaster

Catherine de Cintra
Bursar

Brian Taylor
Abbot's Advisory
Governing Body for
the Schools

Debbie Bell
Society of Parents &
Friends

Margaret Moore
Administrator

Richard Baker
Assistant
Administrator

the 'Find a classmate' developments proving successful. The former re-engaging 131 St Benedict's alumni globally and the latter was perused by 24 OPs.

PF stated that in respect of the Year Marshall Project, 9 years so far are represented.

In respect of the Business Directory the OPA was busy making progress.

Also the Newsletter has changed format: now with two issues a year.

PF referred to recent Council Member changes: Philip Hopley, Adam Kolzynski, Michael Toolan and Pierre Ricard have decided to stand down; Brian Taylor (1960) and Debbie Bell (1984) have been co-opted as Ex Officio members due to their roles elsewhere in the Abbey and School.

Frank Casali has come forward as a Council Member.

PF paid tribute to Richard Sandys and his long association with St Benedict's School and Parish and Old Priorian Association, which was briefly summarised: Hon Sec 1962, Council Member (64-72) rejoined 1997, President 1999-2000 Hon Sec 2000-01 re-elected Hon Sec 2004.

Prayers were asked for Richard and his family. He has been 'a cornerstone of the Association'.

In closing PF thanked Mary Keal (for the barbeques), Phil & Mary Nolan (for the Golf Days), Peter Watson (official photographer) and Kim Dixon for providing the hospitality at the Benet Bar.

PF also thanked Margaret Moore and Richard Baker for their administration in the OPA office. PF also thanked RB for his role of 'Caretaker Secretary' to the Association since 9/07.

The report was approved by Gregory Stafford and seconded by David Murphy.

Treasurer's Report

MA gave a brief resume of the financial aspects of the Association to the end of August 2007 declaring currently a profit of £5700 over budget projections. The reasons for this appear to be an underestimate of the OP subscriptions contribution. Income was up due to greater than anticipated membership of OPs. Fixed expenses (admin, OP magazine) were relatively unchanged and other events and activities incurred less expenditure than anticipated (even though cancellation of the Dinner dance at short notice invoked financial penalties due to hiring of equipment etc this was still below projected expenses).

The Sports clubs still manage not to utilise their allocated budget and MA proposed future events incl subsidised activities.

The proposed Travelling Scholarship was budgeted for £500 but due to timing during the academic year this was not taken up by anyone in the 2006/7 year.

Future ideas for Networking were mentioned including Brian Taylor's '5 year – cohorts' reunions.

MA was projecting a deficit for the coming year of £1000 and also increasing the share of funds allocated for reunions and subsidies for networking.

David Murphy wanted to know what was happening to this 'profit'. MA was reassured that it had been invested and was accruing interest at favourable rates.

Membership Report

RB summed up the year's activities thus: Membership was up to 654 from just over 500 last year (due to unexpected uptake of recent leavers).

The oldest member of the OPA left in 1925 and RB confirmed the global nature of the membership distribution. RB cited the benefits of Email distribution for its efficiency (although acknowledging that snail mail was still used for those without apparent Email addresses) Emails are also sent to non members whose email addresses are held.

Anthony Baker remarked on the membership concentration in recent years and suggested that trawls of older members ought to be considered. Discussion ensued as to cost of membership (£108 for older members) AB considered this something of a deterrent (RB reminded AB how this could be worked out (£10 per year or £108/4)). MA commented on the value of appearance of OP members at events over financial aspects. The Headmaster concurred.

PF stressed the value of engaging with the social groups gathered together in the immediate post school leaving years and then suggested maintaining links with the Association before these groupings disperse. MA suggested several post school social group gatherings (incl Christmas parties) to retain the social networks on board. MA also suggested addressing the views of the immediate social leavers to discover their preferences (if any). Headmaster suggested a university graduation dinner (i.e. after 3-4 years) even if 40 out of the 90 in a year attended it would be worthwhile (this could be subsidised) This could be named the 4year reunion dinner to be a more 'inclusive'

reference. MA suggested Year Marshalls to help organise these reunions. Headmaster reminded the council that this year's Marshalls Marco and Natalie were doing a good job. This motion was proposed by Headmaster and seconded by PF.

Sports Report

MA referred to Golf Day held at Richmond. Of the 27 attending only 9 were OP. Mitigating factors for this low turnout included the bad weather on day. The 2008 Golf to be held at Buckinghamshire Golf Club, cost per capita reduced to £50 to encourage attendance.

Generally the sports clubs (including cricket rugby and fencing) are essentially self-funding and self-motivated and the reports are detailed elsewhere.

GS suggested that although the OP had an official photographer in PW any OP who could hold a camera should witness and record any OP event for the newsletter. Headmaster mentioned the fencing tournament in this context. The motion was proposed by the Headmaster and seconded by RS.

Election of Officers

PF handed over to RB to conduct the election.

Standing officers: PF (President) and MA (Treasurer) were proposed by David Murphy and seconded by Anthony Baker. Carried.

Vacancy for Secretary: Lewis Hill has offered himself for consideration. RB proposed PF seconded. Carried.

Election of Council Members

Mary Keal, Gregory Stafford, Peter Watson and Emma York were prepared to stand and were proposed by PF and RS seconded. Carried.

Frank Casali offered to stand for council. Headmaster proposed and RS seconded. Carried.

This provides for five council members as per the requirements of the constitution. The ex officio members were reappointed concluding the election of Officers of the Association.

A.O.B.

PF expressed the Association's thanks to Dom Alexander Bevan who would be celebrating the Memorial Mass this year; our Chaplain, Dom Thomas Stapleford was out of the country

PF expressed the view that the AGM should take the same format in 2008. GS reminded the meeting of the War Memorial in the school which is normally intrinsic to the service (except for this year's disruption due to rebuilding).

Anthony Baker proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers of the Association for all their hard work of the past year.

Lewis Hill (1975)

Hon Secretary, Old Priorian Association