

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE OLD ALDENHAMIAN SOCIETY**

Wednesday 9th March, 2011
In the Whitbread Room, Aldenham School

at 6pm

Present:

Neil Sutherland (NS)	President (& Chairman)
James Fowler (JF)	Headmaster
Richard Peart (RP)	Honorary Treasurer
Frank Rogers (FR)	Honorary Secretary
Trevor Barton (TB)	Committee Member
Jackie Wilkie (JAW)	Secretary to the Committee

In Attendance:

Mike Taylor (MT)	Previous President
Adam Bobroff (AB)	R1997-2002
Thalia Bornefeld (TBo)	B2000-2002

Apologies:

Derick Burlingham Johnson (DBJ)	Vice President
Ian Luetchford (IL)	Committee Member
Nick Pulman (NP)	Committee Member
John Edwards (JE)	Committee Member

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from JE, NP, IL and DBJ who had intended to be at the meeting but was taken ill at the last moment. JF had sent a message that unfortunately he would be late.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the 2010 AGM</p> <p>The minutes were agreed and had been signed off by MT as the President at that time.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>All matters had been dealt with or will be covered under the Agenda.</p>	
4	<p>Election of Officers (Hon. Treasurer & Hon. Secretary)</p> <p>As the Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary need to be elected annually. It was proposed by TB that RP continue as Hon. Treasurer which NS seconded and TB also proposed FR as the Hon. Secretary which NS seconded.</p>	

<p>5</p>	<p>Election of Committee Members</p> <p>No members were due for re-election (this is required every 3 years). However NS introduced AB who is the Director of Foreign Exchange at Foremost Currency Group and TBo who is about to undertake teacher training. FR proposed AB as a member of the Committee and this was seconded by RP. NS then proposed TBo as a Committee member which was seconded by TB.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>President's Report</p> <p>NS welcomed the 2 new Committee Members and reported a healthy and successful OA Society. He also welcomed MT, the former President, who had kindly agreed to be nominated as a Vice President of the Society in due course.</p> <p>OA Day 2010 which was a Beevor's Gaudy with 129 OAs and guests was a great success with thanks to the Housemaster, Stuart Mainwaring and his wife for a brilliant display of memorabilia and their support, along with the organisation of MB and JAW in the OA Office.</p> <p>The OA Dinner on the 12th November was a success. The 63 OAs and their guests enjoyed the new format of a pre-dinner speech from Major Russell Lewis MC (SH86-91) about his experiences commanding a Parachute Company in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. It was an inspirational talk and very well received, as was the Headmaster's speech during dinner. Thanks were given to IL, MB and JAW for their help to set up the Dinner.</p> <p>Lord Dick Vincent was invited by the School to unveil a portrait of himself in Field Marshal's uniform and this now hangs in the entrance lobby to the school.</p> <p>Having canvassed views for the 2011 format, it was decided to follow the same format. A few committee members had recently attended a talk by Professor Sir Martin Sweeting (B1964-70), who is a world renowned pioneer of small satellites. It had been agreed that MS be invited by NS to be our speaker.</p> <p>On a sad note the death after a long illness of John Rimer (P1956-60) was reported. John served for 45 years in many appointments on the OA Committee and was also a Trustee of the Letchmore Heath Trust and the Aldenham School War Memorial Education Fund, as well being a member of the Richard Platt Society, showing just how much he valued his links with Aldenham. We will miss John's acute grasp of finances and his helpful, friendly nature; he is a sad loss.</p>	

<p>Many OAs and School Representatives attended John's funeral in Chenies on 10 December 2010.</p> <p>The next OA Regional Lunch will be held in the Hong Kong Club on 21 March with the help of Brian Aphorp (P1951-56) which JF will be hosting.</p> <p>The Aldenham.net event held at Tring Brewery on the 3rd March was attended by 15 OAs including TB, MB, AB & TBo who reported it was a great evening, although a little cold in the cellars, but with plenty of enjoyable tasting activity.</p> <p>The Society's finances continue to flourish with thanks to RP. Regarding OA membership, NS felt that we needed to reduce any 'fall out' at an early stage, which FR reported is at present about 6% and AB will review the letter sent to parents. Also with the help of JAW, AB will prepare a colour pamphlet to encourage those that have left school and not become members of the OA Society, but continue to enjoy the benefits of the OA Society and hospitality of the School i.e. OA Day and OA Dinner, to join the Society.</p> <p>Networking and staying in touch is a vital part of what the Society is about and AB and TBo will be helping to set up an Aldenham Face Book site in due course. Social networking is a new and important way of staying in touch for the younger generation of OAs, so it is time for the Society to get aboard this particular train.</p> <p>NS will be introducing a new initiative this year aimed at helping younger OAs to be mentored by older OAs who can act as career and life coaches based on their own business and career experiences. NS is hoping to get this off the ground in a couple of month's time in the hope that it will make the Society a more relevant club for younger members.</p> <p>NS noted good progress with the combined School and OA trip to Ypres in May and the new history 'Foundations for Success' in the Autumn.</p> <p>NS concluded by thanking JF, and his staff, and particularly MB & JAW, for their unfailing support to the Society in 2010 and 2011. The School has many developments to record, including the imminent take-over of St Hilda's School, Bushey and the proposal to construct a new Sixth Form Centre where the 1970's Portacabin now sits, which no doubt the Society will wish to play its part, in due course, in the School's Appeal.</p> <p>NS also paid tribute and thanked all OA committee members who have worked throughout the year to organise the</p>	<p>AB/JAW</p>
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	<p>Society, with a special mention for FR, our hardworking Secretary, and TB for his outstanding work, along with MB to pull together and edit <i>Aldenhamiana 2010</i>.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Headmaster's Report</p> <p>JF joined the meeting with apologies for his lateness and reported that as the links between the school and the OA Society were strong, his report would really be an update rather than fresh material with most Committee Members being involved with many events during the year ie. as members of the school choir at the Carol Service in St Albans Abbey or as Governors or Trustees in support of the school.</p> <p>JF reported that he felt the school was in a position of strength at this stage of its development, with the school at its capacity of 700 pupils which includes Nursery right up to Year 13 and with its remarkable & stable staff. However one significant member of staff, Bob Pomeroy, Head of Physics, will be retiring this summer having joined the school in 1975 and Jason Whiskerd will be leaving to take up his appointment as Head of Brentwood Prep School in September. However he reported that Janet Houghton, (the Headmasters' Secretary), is still with us and valued after 25 years serving 4 Headmasters during her time at the school.</p> <p>However one departure this year which JF said the OAs will feel far more keenly is the decision of MB to step down from her post in the summer as Development and OA Manager.</p> <p>JF said the school also has strength in terms of its academic results with some of the best achieved A level results at the school with a 98% pass rate and 24% achieving A or A* with many going on to top universities across the country.</p> <p>Pupils were also highly successful at GCSE with the school as a whole able to record that 35% of all GCSE's taken were graded either A* or A against the national figure of 23%. This, added to the quality of the boys and girls due to start in September in year 7, who are the most able group to be taken since baseline testing began, should further strengthen the schools standing for prospective parents and pupils.</p> <p>The school and Governors have set clear targets to enhance the whole site by the year 2013 and this plan includes improvements to paths (the main driveway and exterior of the Sports Hall having already been completed) and classrooms and the development of a new sixth form block and enhanced music facility which will commence on Visitation Day 2011 and should be ready for Visitation Day 2012.</p>	

	<p>JF reported that 2 forthcoming events to be enjoyed by OAs are the trip to Ypres in May with the School CCF and Chamber Choir to dedicate a memorial in the English church there and to take part in the Menin Gate Ceremony and secondly the History of the school which is due for publication in September 2011 with £8K of copies pre-sold and the acceptance of Dick Vincent to write the foreword to the book.</p> <p>JF was keen to note the further development of Aldenham School in bringing St Hilda's girls' school in Bushey into the Aldenham Foundation which JF felt would be a natural extension to the schools success beyond the Aldenham site.</p> <p>NS asked what age group St Hilda's covered. JF said it was a Junior School which ran parallel with our own Prep School. MT asked how many pupils were in our Prep School to which JF replied there were 140 + 30 in the Nursery.</p> <p>RP asked how many pupils could be accommodated in year 7. JF said that 60 could be taken and with a 3 form entry. Normally 1 form comes from the Prep School with 1 or 2 students at present taken from St Hilda's which JF hoped overtime would increase.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Honorary Treasurer's Report</p> <p>RP issued the Committee members with the Income & Expenditure report for the year ended 31 Dec 2010 and reported that the subscriptions are up slightly but standing orders are slightly down due mainly to deaths.</p> <p>The grant to the Football club was high due to bailing them out but should even out over time.</p> <p>The £1500 grant given to Ripple Africa was unusual but a worthy cause and £95.00 was given as pre-funding for the forthcoming Ypres trip.</p> <p>RP reported that £3,700 had been paid for the History so far but £8K in total had been put aside for this.</p> <p>As discussed previously it was felt that holding £50K was adequate for the Society's needs and overall its investments were doing fairly well. Having now completed a 3 year review of the Society finances, RP felt that no change to subscriptions was required.</p> <p>MT asked whether the Society had done anything to canvass legacies. TB said that the school ran the Richard Platt Society but was unsure of its activities. MB reported that the Richard Platt Society had about 15 known members and ran</p>	

	<p>an annual event but agreed it needs to be driven. TB suggested an advert in <i>Aldenhamiana</i>. MB said that since the Richard Platt Society has been running, which is about 5 years, it had generated about £20K. RP said that the Richard Platt Society needed to be run through the school for Inheritance Tax purposes as the money goes through the General Charitable Trust account and not the OA Society.</p> <p>TB proposed to adopt the treasurer's report and JF seconded.</p>	
9	<p>Constitutional Change - Update</p> <p>The proposed Constitutional Change to Rule 3 regarding 'what constitutes an OA' was distributed to the AGM. Summarising, NS said that all members of the Senior School, and overseas students that had attended for an academic year at the School, were automatically eligible for membership while those pupils that attended the Prep School (but not the Senior School) would be eligible to join the OA Society if they had completed at least one year in the school. Former preparatory pupil's applications would be examined by the OA Committee and agreed on a case by case basis. This change was proposed by NS and seconded by AB and unanimously agreed.</p>	
10	<p>Website Report</p> <p>NS felt that 'website report' agenda item was not all encompassing and that, in future, would be referred to as Communications in future agendas.</p> <p>MB said that the OA Society Website was maintained by Mark Jordan but the on-line database was under-used and needed updating. FR would follow this up.</p> <p>Facebook is something NS would like the Society to be involved with and with the agreed help from TBo hoped to set up a closed group for Old Aldenhamians.</p> <p>MT had spoken to Mark Jordan in the past and safety was an issue with regard to Facebook. NS agreed it needed to be tightly controlled. AB said that a disclaimer would need to be put on the group. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to discuss this further.</p>	<p>FR</p> <p>NS, FR, TBo, MB</p>
11	<p><i>Aldenhamiana</i></p> <p>TB reported that it is now 3 years that <i>Aldenhamiana</i> has been published on an annual basis as opposed to bi-annually and he believes it has improved due to the addition of colour</p>	

	<p>and quality and that overall the reaction from its readers has been positive.</p> <p>TB was aware that the publication was text heavy, but he felt this was what OAs liked as opposed to the school publication of <i>The Aldenhamian</i> which is more pictorial. It is the major cost to the OA Society and more so last year due to an error by the mailing house in sending out copies to those people that do not normally receive them (e.g. non members). NS felt we ought to capitalise on this by sending an email out to these 'windfall' recipients asking them to join the Society and explaining that <i>Aldenhamiana</i> was just one benefit of membership. MB agreed this is possible and there would be no added cost to those with email. However she would look into the cost of a mailing for those that do not have email.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>OA Charities – Update</p> <p>TB as a Trustee of the Letchmore Heath Trust & The Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Fund reported as follows.</p> <p>Firstly both had been advertised in the last edition of <i>Aldenhamiana</i> in October and following John Rimer' death who was Treasurer of both Trusts, TB hoped to recruit Peter Stevens (P64-69) to be Treasurer of the Letchmore Heath Trust and Tony Bingham (P63-67) as the Treasurer of the Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Fund, both of whom are accountants. Appointment would be confirmed in due course.</p> <p>The Letchmore Heath Trust owns works of art within the school and also has a capital fund and uses the interest to buy artistic items for the school, the last purchase being some plan chests for the art department.</p> <p>The Aldenham School War Memorial Educational Fund money is used to support pupils at the School whose parents may be having financial difficulties. It also encourages good students to join the School.</p> <p>RP reported as a Trustee of the Aldenham Club. This club was set up in the 1940's and mainly consisted of a Boxing Club for boys from the Kentish Town area. This was subsequently sold in the 1980s and a trust fund set up. It has investments of £200K which generates an income of about £10K per year which is distributed to youth clubs in the Kentish Town area. Other trustees are IL, Tony Harvie (B70-75) and Sue Clark, who is the daughter of the former leader of the Aldenham Boys Club, and a resident of Kentish Town.</p>	

	TB advised that there was also the Jukes Fund run by the school that gives financial assistance to pupils.	
13	<p>OA Day 2010 & 2011</p> <p>As reported earlier by NS the 2010 OA Day for Beevor's was a great success. 2011 is set for Sunday 26th June with the focus on Paull's. MB felt there may not be as many as last year as Paull's House had celebrated it's Centenary in 2006. However, JAW reported that so far we were expecting 35.</p>	
14	<p>Annual Dinner 2010 & 2011</p> <p>NS reported that the 2010 Annual Dinner went well and therefore the same format would be followed in 2011 with a pre-dinner speaker to be arranged and dinner at the school. As agreed earlier NS to speak to Sir Martin Sweeting about being the pre-dinner speaker.</p> <p>The date for the 2011 dinner is Friday 18th November and the only problem FR could foresee was that unfortunately the Golfing Society had booked their annual dinner for the 23rd November so we were unlikely to gain their support.</p>	NS
15	<p>Election of Honorary Members</p> <p>There are 3 members of staff up for election who have been at the school for over 5 years and these are Julie Bannister, Director of Drama, Philip Green, Head of Business Studies & Economics, and Sarah Nicholls, Head of Design Technology. All of which were proposed by JF and seconded by TB. FR will write to each of them to invite them to join the OAS as Honorary Members.</p> <p>MB reported that Philip Green was running a Business Studies dinner this week and the guest speaker was OA, Nick Magliocchetti (L91-92).</p>	FR
16	<p>Register & History – Update</p> <p>JF reported that the History was going well and much work was going on by Roger Payne and Heather Sherman. The book was costed at a 144 paged book but in order to get the information in that was felt necessary the book will now be 160 pages. This would incur a further cost in the region of £1500 but JF felt this would be recouped in sales and there was no intention to increase the price of the finished product. The text was to be completed by the end of January with the photos and layout now being worked on with the arrival of the book expected in September, 2011.</p>	

<p>17</p>	<p>OA Sports Clubs Update</p> <p>FR reported as follows based on reports received from Peter Easby OAGS Hon. Treasurer and Robert Hill O AFC Chairman both of whom apologised for being unable to attend.</p> <p><u>Golf Society</u>: Peter Easby has been the Secretary of the OA Golf Society for many years and they have about 19 rounds of golf per year and this year they had their youngest ever team for the Halford Hewitt competition and although they were defeated, the team did very well. 30 people attended the competition which included 20 spectators, a thriving and friendly group.</p> <p>RP asked if the Committee was happy for the Society to pay the Golfing Society the normal 90% of their entry fees which amounts to £1282. The Committee agreed.</p> <p><u>OA Football</u>: Robert Hill was elected as Chairman and at present the OA Football are up to date with payments to the school for use of the Astroturf although no formal accounts have been seen to verify the actual financial health of the club.</p> <p>Unfortunately the Club played another non OA in the Arthurian League and were threatened with immediate suspension, however, after representations by the O AFC Chairman, the sanction was suspended but it could be invoked at any time in the remaining part of the 2010/11 season and the whole 2011/12 season if any further cases were detected. The 1st XI have a bad disciplinary record this season so much so that they have incurred a club fine from the ALMC. The 2nd XI, however, have a very good disciplinary record this season. FR reported that John McAllister had stepped in to speak to senior members of the football team about their behaviour and they seem to have taken some notice, and together with the fact that the 1st XI are playing well and are likely to be promoted to the Premier Division, there appears to be a new resolution amongst some senior members to address the issues. Especially as suspension could mean they effectively would be demoted by 2 divisions.</p> <p>FR said that the O AFC Committee were obliged to present a plan to detail the steps they were taking to correct their conduct to the ALMC committee on 15 March. The club also faced replacing long serving officials. Matt Allen the Hon. Sec has decided to retire at the end of the season and Nick Baker is also stepping down. NB has done well encouraging the young OAs in the 2nd XI, and has been assisted by Grant</p>	<p>RP</p>
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	<p>Cornock and his staff in ensuring 11 players on the pitch by the supply of school boys. It is hoped that Robert Hill will be able to hand over the Chair at the end of season and a replacement is needed; one candidate is currently being approached for the role.</p>	
18	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>OA visit to Ypres:</u> MB reported that 32 OAs would be going to Ypres on the 6th May with most going on the coach and returning on the evening of Saturday 7th May.</p> <p>They will arrive in Ypres for the Dedication Service which will be followed by a reception at the Novotel, then at 8.00pm, will witness the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, at which the School and the OA Society will lay a wreath. On completion of the Last Post Ceremony, dinner has been arranged at a restaurant in Ypres. On Sunday there will be a guided tour, by a professional guide, of important sites in the Ypres area. JF had received enquiries from parents regarding transport on the coach. MB suggested they be offered seats on the school bus if there is room at a cost of £25.00.</p> <p><u>Election of Mike Taylor CBE DL:</u> NS proposed that Mike Taylor be elected as Vice President of the OA Society which JF seconded and everyone was in favour. MT said he was greatly honoured.</p> <p><u>Molly Barton:</u> NS said that the Society was deeply grateful to MB for her assistance over the years and wished her good luck for the future and would be sorry to see her go.</p>	
19	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>The next OA AGM was scheduled for Wednesday 7th March 2012 at 6pm in the Whitbread Room.</p> <p>The next OA Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 16th June in the Whitbread Room at 6pm.</p>	