



OLD SULIANS' ASSOCIATION

www.oldsulians.org.uk



1925 - 2010

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010

PRESIDENT
R J Wood Esq.,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on **Wednesday, 24th February 2010 at 7.30 pm.** prompt at the **Old Sulians' Rugby Club, Lansdown**, by kind permission of the Rugby Club. Your attention is drawn to Rule 15, under which any member wishing to move a resolution or nominate an Officer at the Annual General Meeting must give notice of their intention in writing to the Honorary Secretary, not less than seven days before the meeting.

P D Powell Honorary Secretary

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2009 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Hon. Secretary's Report (See over)
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report (See over)

6. Election of Officers:

b. Vice Presidents	c. Hon. Secretary
d. Hon. Treasurer	e. Hon. Social Secretary
f. Hon. Correspondent	g. Hon. Auditors
h. Trustees	i. Executive Committee
7. Any other business.

NEWS

'Basement to Beechen Cliff'

Terry Light reports: *"Since it's launch at the Annual Dinner in mid October sales have exceeded all expectations. We hoped for a good uptake from old boys but we were surprised at the demand from some of the City's bookshops such as Oldfield Park Book Shop, Waterstones and Mr B's Book Emporium. This resulted in the nice embarrassing situation before Christmas where we could not meet the demand. Now the Christmas rush has finished we urgently await another print run to be delivered so that we can meet the requirements of overseas Old Sulians' and the School. The Editorial Committee would like to thank all Old Sulians' who have purchased the book, passed positive feedback by telephone, letter and e-mail and also brought to our attention old boys who were not included. If there should be a Second Edition then all comments will be taken into consideration."*

I have to say that it was with some trepidation that your Committee ordered 200 copies of 'The Book' back in the summer but, as Terry says, sales have been incredible. Reports have been very favourable - **The Chronicle** gave us a good spread, and we even appeared on Amazon! (They don't have any at present!). **Peter Tait** at Beechen Cliff designed the cover and **Alex** and **Zac** at **Systemagic** did the preparation and warehousing. The 'Book Boys' were **Terry Light**, **Roy Ludlow**, **Terry Hardick** and the late **Len Dyer**. The Treasurer also attended and winced when large sums of money were discussed!

Copies will be available again soon at £10 collected, £12.50 delivered in the UK, and contact us for an overseas price. All enquiries to the Treasurer (below) who is feeling a lot happier, although he hasn't got the accounts past the Auditors yet.

Annual Dinner

An excellent evening once again. 55 stalwarts attended encouraged by my small band of whips! **Tony Comer** missed giving his own speech through 'illness' but arranged from his hospital bed for **Mike Wood** to deliver it anyway. I am delighted to report that both Tony and Mike have now recovered. The date for this year is **Saturday 16th October**, please put it in your diary now, and someone let the Rugby Club know!

At the Dinner we circulated 2 chits to see whether 1) there was

interest in having the AGM before the Annual Dinner, and 2) whether there was interest in any organised coach trips. The response was underwhelming for both ideas.

Presentation Evening.

Terry Light reports again: *"This was held during the evening of the 25th November in the imposing surroundings of the Assembly Rooms. The Special Guest was Michael Eavis CBE, of Glastonbury Festival fame, supported by a couple of sponsors from the business world and myself. In addition to the usual prizes presented to pupils on behalf of the Association, I had the privilege to present a 'special prize' to Sixth Former, Peter Tait, as a thank you for designing the front cover of 'Basement to Beechen Cliff'. The Assembly Room Main Hall was overflowing with schoolboys and girls, well supported by their parents and grandparents resulting in a well worthwhile atmospheric evening."*

John New

Fortunately, I have just received a letter from John's nephew to say that he has moved to Englishcombe House, a care home in Englishcombe Lane. Although his short term memory is extremely short term, his grasp of the old days is still there and he would welcome visitors. At 94 he is, I believe, the Father of the House and fondly remembered as a great character and servant of both the Association and the Rugby Club.

Foreigners!

Don Duck in New Zealand and **Geoff Yates** in Australia have both recently moved. Anyone wishing to make contact can do so through the Editor. I gather the weather down there has been a bit milder than here of late! I am not jealous. Much.

Membership

Since the last news **Keith Prosser**('54), **Pat Cogswell**('63), **Colin Rawlinson**('55) and **Roger Boakes**('61) have all joined the Association. Sadly **G W Hudson**('47) has passed on.

Old Sulians RFC

Continue to find the going difficult in their current division although I am told that the rugby is better than the results would seem to show. And of course the snow has not helped recently.

Association Golf Day

Friday **18th June**, contact **Mike Wood** for details 01225 335250 or mike@systemagic.co.uk

Our publishing partners in **'Basement to Beechen Cliff'** - www.systemagic.co.uk 01225 426800

Hon. Secretary:	Peter Powell	11 Kennet Park,	Bathampton,	Bath BA2 6SS	01225 466608
Hon. Treasurer:	Richard Wood	63 Caledonian Road,	East Twerton,	Bath, BA2 3RD	01225 422210
Hon. Correspondent:	Roger Wood.	101 Hansford Square,	Combe Down,	Bath, BA2 5LL	01225 832207

More News

School 1.

The President, along with **Alan Blake** and **Terry Lee** met with the School Governors in October to outline the Association's aims, and also attended a presentation by **The Bath Education Trust**, which consists of Beechen Cliff, Hayesfield, Bath College, Bath University and Rotork. The Trust, formed in 2009, is designed to pool the resources and expertise available so that students can have wider academic and vocational opportunities. Our Hon. Secretary, **Peter Powell**, attended both the Annual Piano Concert and the Carol Service and reports that they were both splendid occasions. I visited School to hear **Nicolas Ridley** talk about 'Godfrey's Ghost', a book about his father, **Sulian Arnold Ridley** of Dad's Army fame. I enjoyed the book which gives a fascinating insight into the man as opposed to the actor, and as a social history of Bath in the early 20th century.

School 2.

You may recall that last year **Alan Blake** organised a reunion for the '49'ers which included a visit to School. We had a number of requests from other vintages to join in which were politely declined. However I have tentatively broached the idea of a visit towards the end of term in July with the **Headmaster**, which would be open to any members. Before we firm up would you register your interest with me please. Drop a note to the me at the address for the Hon Correspondent overleaf or e-mail me at: committee@oldsulians.org.uk. If there is sufficient interest I will give full details in the May newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

We would really appreciate your attendance at the AGM. A few more volunteers for the Committee would be a bonus, and might reduce the average age by decades! Remember that things only get done with people power. Please give it a thought or two. Aussies are excused.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Hon. Secretary's Report 2009

It is good to report the continuing support for the Association from Andrew Davies, the Headmaster of Beechen Cliff, noting that the standards that we grew up with are being maintained.

The next AGM is almost upon us and we urge you to support us by attending and possibly bringing new ideas.

It is sad that we were unable to get enough support for a Ladies Night this year but maybe another gathering could be arranged in future together with new ideas such as coach trips to selected places but these can only take place with your support.

Again we are indebted to Roger Wood (him with the new eyes) for all the work he puts in throughout the year.

My dip into the past this year is 1990. Mike Wood was President for his 2nd year, Avon Education's attempts to reorganise education in Bath by, amongst other things, turning Beechen Cliff into a 6th Form College were abandoned, Beechen Cliff opted out of Local Authority control and Roy Ludlow was appointed Head in the midst of the turmoil! 10 teams took part in the Treasure Hunt organised by Bert Marquiss which was won by Tony Burt, with Mike Wood and Tony Comer runners-up. Ladies Night, organised by Tony Bowrey, was attended by 66 people with entertainment provided by Roge and Mike Wood. The Annual Dinner attracted only 29, quite a few less than the present day.

This year we are sorry to have lost Tony Sweet, Len Richards, Len Dyer, B D V Coombes and G W Hudson. Our condolences go to their families and friends.

Finally, once again our thanks to the Old Sulians Rugby Club for the continued use of the Clubhouse at Lansdown for our Committee meetings.

Peter Powell.

Honorary Secretary.

Hon. Treasurer's Report 2010.

As this goes to press I have just delivered the books to our Auditor John Foster. Subject to his approval the Accounts and Balance Sheet will be available at the AGM. They will show that on our normal activities we about broke even, However the outstanding success of Basement to Beechen Cliff has resulted in a profit in excess of £1000. When we originally ordered 200 copies we modestly hoped to sell perhaps 150. We have currently sold 300 and have another 100 on the way. Your Committee will decide on the use of this sum in due course.

Although there was no Ladies Night our costs have been roughly covered by our income. The use of the internet has helped considerably in the distribution of the newsletter and has attracted a number of sales of the book. If you do not receive your newsletter by e-mail at present and you have an e-mail address please consider the imminent rise in postage costs and get in touch with committee@oldsulians.org.uk.

Our net membership shows another slight rise to 267 despite the Grim Reaper's best efforts.

Rich Wood

Honorary Treasurer.