

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

(Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association)

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MAY 2003

General:

Reunion 2003: This seems to have been a success with over 100 sitting down for the dinner. Barry Robinson (President) and Frank Abbott (guest speaker) were both on good form. Thanks are due to Mark Russell and Robert MacArthur for making the arrangements and to the Parents Society for running the bar.

Reunion 2004: will be on Saturday April 3rd 2004 PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS.

Membership: We could do with another influx of new members to swell our numbers. A few life members have reappeared, including Phil Kitchen who is in the Bahamas.

Subs: Mark Hart (Treasurer) and I are still about to reconcile our records and to update the state of payment on subscriptions.

Could I remind Ordinary members that their annual £4 subscription is due and also associate members who left in 1998 that they should now send in their subscription. Ordinary £4 per annum or Term £30 for 20 years (can be paid in three annual payments of £10). Please use the form with this newsletter when completing your details.

Committee News:

Your new committee met on 6th May 2003. The minutes can be found on the website or can be emailed on request. We welcomed two new members David Niven (1978) and Neil Chambers (1997). Some of the points we discussed: -

Association Tie: These have arrived and are ready for you to order. They are blue silk ties with the school crest, HBSOBA and 1908-2008 in gold underneath. The cost will be £15 and if you would like one then please send a cheque payable to HBSOBA and I will forward one to you. We have invested over £1000 in this project so I hope members will support us and get the centenary tie.

Careers Advice: Matthew Paradis is working at this and will be contacting those who offered their services in the near future. Neil Chambers will be assisting in this and of course our webmaster will be working with them. Emlyn Cooke has taken over from Barry Robinson as President and although 'down in the valleys' he will be kept in close contact with what is going on.

Specialist School Status for HBS: The big news from the School point of view is that they plan to submit an application for Specialist School status this autumn. In order to do so they have to find £50000. The Head is looking for those willing to pledge support, financial, for this venture. Your committee has recommended attempting to match the pledge of £5000 from the Parents Society so we hope you will feel that this is a worthwhile way of supporting the School. I include a contribution from Keith Wadsworth, the Headteacher outlining the situation: -

SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS

As part of the Government's desire to improve standards in education, it has created a programme which allows schools to develop their own particular strengths and character and become a centre of excellence in one (or more) curriculum areas. It will help raise standards of teaching and learning, strengthen the links between the school and the local community and those with a group of local primary schools. It is hoped that this increased diversity will provide opportunities to meet the needs and develop the talents of individual pupils.

The Specialist School programme offers schools the opportunity to opt for one of the following subject areas: Technology, Language, Sports, Arts, Business and Enterprise, Engineering, Science and Mathematics, and Computing.

It is anticipated that in each geographical area, secondary schools will represent a wide range of specialisms, offering each other, as well as their primary school and community links, a centre of expertise and support.

As part of the application for specialism process each school is required to raise £50,000 from sponsorship to support a capital project(s) in the school. It is hoped that sponsors will also take an active, on going interest in the school, providing a link with the world of work. In addition to the school-generated sum, the Government will provide a further £100,000 to support the capital projects and an annual additional budget for four years based on the number of pupils in this school.

The specialist school will create even stronger links with local feeder schools, with the aim of supporting the staff in the junior schools, providing an exchange of good practice, training for partner schools including secondary, and technical support and advice in appropriate areas.

It is expected that specialist school status will broaden the opportunities available to students via National competitions, involvement in programmes of enrichment, projects and initiatives.

Though the school will be designated a specialist school, it will continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum for all and the intention is for all curriculum areas to benefit, directly or indirectly, from its specialist status.

Should you feel that you would like to make a contribution then please make your cheque payable to Hitchin Boys' School Charitable Trust and include a completed Gift Aid form with your cheque. You will find a gift Aid form at the end of this Newsletter. Mail your contribution to me or directly to the school. – Hon Sec.

News from Members:

Ken Evison (1939) I spent 2 years in a Chartered Accountants office and then 5 years in the RAF as a wireless mechanic, serving in UK and Western Europe. I then went as a Cost Accountant with ICI and stayed there 35 years until I retired 1982.

Phillip Mallpress (1940) apologies for not getting to this year's reunion but passes on he good wished to all. Having completed his contribution to the 'HBS by the decade – or whatever we decide to call it' he looks forward to the final version. (So do I – Ed.) Phillip records another milestone with the safe arrival of his first great grandson.

Peter Sackett (1955) must have had a Life Membership but somehow got he onto the 'lost trails'. Anyway he has taken out a new membership and we welcome him back.

New Members:

David Niven (1978) I am a solicitor practising and living locally. I'm married to Sue Cook of Hitchin Girls', with 4 children. My guests at the annual dinner, David Hall and Bob Coppage, are also old boys of my year and I hope they will be joining the Association.

Doug Hankin (1956) Employment - '56 -'89 Letchworth engineering company (Sigma Inst Co - went bust in '89) 18 month spell with a printer (Mike Steele) then went to an Ad Agency in Cambridge ('91-'97) followed by another (still Cambridge area, '97-2000). Currently with a small agency in Aston (nr Stevenage). Married (sort of), 2 children. Sports nut - cricket (Letchworth & Hitchin '56-'69 hockey (Blueharts '56-'98), squash & golf (still playing both).

Chris Smith (1974) Married, with four young children, semi-retired to Herefordshire after a career in Finance / General Management & Computing. Spend my time renovating my property and get involved in local community & rural affairs.

Chris Johnson (1997) after leaving school I spent three years at the University of York studying History. In the autumn of 2000 I joined First Group plc on its management-training scheme. First is one of the major players in bus and rail in the UK along with substantial interests in North America. After a year seeing how the rail division works at First Great Eastern I moved into a more permanent role with the Commercial Planning team in the headquarters building near Liverpool Street station. Our team is responsible for various different areas including analysis of revenue and customer satisfaction. My role focuses on fares management and making sure that we comply with the regulatory regime. This has spread out to include work on one or two industry-wide projects. The parent company has not been invited to bid for the replacement franchise for East Anglia so the future in a little difficult to predict but having worked through a very difficult period I am sure the future will be challenging! (Thanks for joining up Chris, how about showing the 1985/6 years their age in next years football challenge – can you get a team up? Ed.)

News of Old Boys:

Paul Jesson (1964) Confesses at hardly being in contact with anyone for almost forty years but was pleased to remember appearing in Twelfth Night and Iolanthe with Frank Abbott. – I hope they managed to reminisce about this at the dinner. Paul was from Knebworth originally so remembers another old stalwart – Stavely Harding. Paul's father – Peter Jackson (1938) was

also an old boy of the school.

Iain James (1994) From school I went straight up to Oxford University for a BA in Geology (1994-1997). Then went to Cranfield University at Silsoe to complete my PhD in Soil Science in (1997-2000). Having worked as a consultant for a laboratory company in Berks for two years, I have now taken a lectureship at Cranfield University researching engineering and physics for improving sports surface design. Getting married in Sept '03.

Iain Cooper (1968) Left Hitchin almost immediately after leaving school & after a short stay in Grantham went to live in Leigh (outside Wigan) having become a sales rep in the chemical industry & remained there for around 7 years. From there I moved to head office in Darlington as Marketing Manager with other challenges & some overseas work in Africa, Asia & USA. I got to Australia for the 1st time in 1979 & immediately loved the place & after several trips finally migrated here in mid 1986. Got married along the way in Wigan but after 10 years that fell apart then met & married the fair Emilia in Sydney in 1989.

Started OZ life in Sydney selling into the casino industry & was relocated to Las Vegas Nevada to run a slot machine manufacturing company in 1993 covering USA, Canada, Africa, Caribbean etc. I can confirm that they do build casinos in good spots. We stayed in the US for 3 years then moved back to Sydney for reasons of career & sanity.

Around 4 years ago we decided to re-locate to Brisbane & built our 3rd home (2 in Australia 1 & in USA) & currently I'm running a small software company based in northern NSW.

Love the outdoor life here (wearing shorts 9 months of the year) with lots of good golf courses, watching the cricket, rugby etc then of course the barbie providing a constant source of fulfillment along with the excuse for a coldie or 3.

If there are any HBGSOBA blokes in Oz &/or any of my contemporaries still around it would be good to hear from them after 30 years or so.

Jack Kellard (1989) I left school in 1989 and after being chucked out of one college and failing A Levels at another fluked my way into the University of East London as a mature student. I graduated in 1996 and now work in London for Strutt & Parker as a Chartered Surveyor dealing with commercial properties.

I married my wife Jen in 2001 and have a dog-called Ellie. I try to spend as many weekends as possible white water kayaking with mates.

Andy Genever (1974) I was at the School from 1969 to 1974. I then completed an OND in Technology (Engineering) 1976. BA (Open). This was followed by 12 Years service in the RAF. Currently I am a Security Officer at Orange in Hertford. My Interests include Fruit-growing, Gardening, Cycling, and Folk Music. It is nice to meet up with old School mates the Gardening must have been due to Stan Rainbow !!!

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 6.00pm. on 5 April 2003

in the School Library

Present: B.D. Robinson (President) J R Mayhead, M. Hart (Hon Treasurer), D E Stancombe (Hon Sec), K S Wadsworth - Headteacher, G. W. Brown, R. Chandler, G.R. Chenery, T. Hales, R Crabbe, J Bridges, N. Ireland, A.P Cherry, J C Coxall, M J Cranfield, P.R. Downey, E.L. Foster, R.M. Gardner, J.W. Gatward, T.E. Hales, S C Harding, R.J. MacArthur, G H Russell, M. Russell, G L Shaw, D.E. Simmonds, Michael Pratt.

Apologies: A D W Garvie, R. Bonfield, F. Papworth, D Peters, R J Bowker , O J Stedman, P Mallpress M. Philpott, O Hoeg, P. Cropper, R.F. Corder, D.G. Stedman, P.J. Cranfield, T P Brooker, N.R. Pettigrew, R T Whitmore, B.H. Waters,

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th April 2002 were taken as read and confirmed on the proposal of J. C. Coxall and seconded by G.H. Russell.

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Hon. Treasurer's Report: The Hon. Treasurer tabled his report and the Statement of Accounts to the 31st December 2002. J. Mayhead proposed and M. Cranfield seconded that the Statement of Accounts be adopted. This was agreed unanimously. The President expressed his appreciation for the Treasurer's good work.

Hon. Secretary's Report: The Hon. Secretary presented his Report. The President proposed the adoption of the report and expressed the appreciation of the meeting for the secretary's continued efforts throughout the year.

Election of Officers and Committee: The following members were elected or confirmed in office all were agreed unanimously.

· President for 2003: E.M. Cooke

· President Elect: J M Bridges

· Vice-Presidents: D.C.Baines, T.P.Brooker, W.S.Bowker, D.Carnill, A.P.Cherry, C.H.Childs, B.I.Cook, R.F.K.Corder, J.C.Coxall, C.C.Day, P.J.Day, J.Gatward, S.C.Harding, D.Highton, J.R.Mayhead, J.A.Monk, G.L.Shaw, D.G.Stedman, O.J.Stedman, M.J.Steeley, N.A.Thomson, and R.T Whitmore.

· Hon. Treasurer: M. E. Hart

· Hon. Secretary: D.E.Stancombe

· Committee Members: (Vacancies to be left to the discretion of the committee)

Retiring in 2003 - J.C.Coxall,

Retiring in 2004 - R.J. MacArthur, M.Russell

Retiring in 2005 – M. Paradis

Election of new members to retire in 2006

M.J. Cranfield, Neil Chambers and D. Niven, were proposed by D. Stancombe and seconded by M. Russell. The meeting unanimously approved their appointment.

· Election of a new Vice President – J.C. Burges. Proposed J. Gatward Seconded G.H. Russell.

The meeting was delighted to elect John to the list of Vice Presidents in recognition for the work that he did as Treasurer of the Association for many years

The President expressed his appreciation of the work of those committee members retiring this year –

J.C. Coxall and J Snoxall (Resignation).

Re-election of Life Trustees – J.R. Mayhead and T.P. Brooker were unanimously re-elected. Proposed by J. Coxall and Seconded by D.E. Simmonds.

Re-appointment of Honorary Accountants – it was unanimously agreed to re-appoint Messrs Watts, Knowles.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Stuart Guyton for his work on behalf of the Association.

Headteacher's Review. Keith Wadsworth reported that the School has had another successful and challenging year.

Staffing: Despite initial difficulties the school was fully staffed except for one member in the science department. Luckily an excellent colleague had been found through the teaching agency.

Numbers: The school has its full quota of pupils and has again been oversubscribed for next year's 7 entry. Due the closure of a school in Letchworth it is possible that the normal 150/160 will be exceeded.

Exam results: The number of passes and the grades achieved by pupils has risen again when compared to last year's figures and were higher than National and County figures. 69% of the entry achieved grade C and above and 96% gained at least 5 passes at GCSE level. 8 boys achieved all grade A*/A grades and 40 A*/A/B grades. This shows the calibre of boys that will be going on to the post 16 courses. At 'A' level there was a 97% pass rate with 65% achieving grade C or higher and an average point score was comparably higher than 2001.

Nathan Kettel has reached the final 20 in the British Maths Olympiad and if successful in Cambridge in the near future will go on to the international series in Japan.

Building: Two further science laboratories are scheduled for a complete refurbishment. The design for the new sixth form block is being prepared.

Music: A new director of music is about to be appointed due to the promotion of Mr. Docherty. Many boys have been involved a musical 'extravaganza' and linked productions with Hitchin Girls' School continue successfully.

Sport: The facilities available at new sports hall, including four competition standard trampoline beds, have meant that trampolining and gymnastics now figure in the school's successes. 6 boys have also represented the county at badminton for the U15 age group. The year 7 team is the current county cricket champions and year 9 runners-up in their age group.

The 1st XV had a good season and there is another potential international which may join the ranks of Joe Worsley (an ex-pupil), currently in the England team.

Hockey and rugby are forging closer links with the town clubs, Blueharts and HRUFC respectively. The latter having provided £1500 for equipment.

One boy has become a Welsh international in their U19 lacrosse team.

Parent's Society: A hard working committee have organised a number of fundraising events and achieved their target to purchase a new minibus. This has been ordered and will arrive in the near future. A summer ball is planned for this year and will take place in the quad on July.

The Headteacher then announced that the school would be applying for 'specialist school status' this year, the specialist area being Technology with Maths and Science. A great deal of work has to be done to prepare the application before October and a sum of £50,000 has to be raised before it can go ahead. The Parent's Society has pledged £5000 and the school is looking for support from all quarters, including local and national businesses.

The President thanked the Headteacher on a most interesting and informative address.

Any other business.

John Mayhead pointed out that as a Trustee for the Association's Life Membership Trust he did in fact have no control over this money in this fund. He recommended that the fund should require two signatures on any withdrawals or transfers. As there were only two trustees it could present difficulty in getting two signatures. He recommended that the number of trustees be increased to four to overcome this difficulty. The meeting welcomed the offer from John Coxall and David Simmonds their services and the recommendation that they become additional trustees.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Date: 5th April 2004 SignedPresident

ASSOCIATION CENTENARY TIES £15 from Hon Sec Please buy one.

Concert CDs: I still have a few copies left. If you would like one please send a cheque for £5 - payable to HBSOBA (Hon Sec)

Books: Some of the books, which Frank Papworth (1936) donated, are still available. If anyone is interested in making a purchase then please contact me (Hon Sec) and I will arrange to get them to you. All reasonable offers welcomed.

Mirror for the Society of Friends Hine 1930 £45

Hitchin Worthies Hine 1932 £45

The Natural History of the Hitchin Region Edition Hine 1934 £45

Hitchin Old and New Hine 1946 £7.50

A Short History of St Mary's Hitchin Hine 1936 £7.50

Charles Lamb and his Hertfordshire Hine 1949 £22

The Book of Hitchin (No. 457) Anthony Foster 1981 £25

Highways and Byways in Hertfordshire Tompkins and Griggs 1913 £15

Notes on the Biggin (pamphlet, 1930) W.O.T. & W.J.F. 1923 £7.50

Contact Address for HBSOBA

Communications for the Association may be sent to me at 25 Chiltern Road Hitchin Herts SG4 9PJ or phone 01462-457-510 or e-mail Sheila_David@dstancombe.freereserve.co.uk

Or via our website www.oldboysonline.com.

GIFT AID DECLARATION FROM OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

Details of donor

Title _____ Forename _____ Surname _____

Address _____

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I want the charity to treat this donation as a Gift Aid donation.

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