

Hitchin Boys' School Old Boys' Association

Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association

Quarterly Bulletin February 2011

A Date for your Diary –

APRIL 2nd 2011 – AGM and Annual Reunion.

General

A belated Happy New Year and welcome to the February 2011 edition of the Bulletin.

We have new Sponsor for our Postage !! Brian Kinnear, who left the School many, many years ago, remembered that he had been getting the Chronicles and Bulletins for eons, based on a Life Membership, 'sold' to him by Gabby Parker. He felt it was payback time. We are all very grateful to Brian and hope that he recovers well from some surgery he is undergoing, which will prevent him attending the reunion this year. We are very grateful to Tony Norgan and Norgans for their sponsorship over the last year and I will be asking for another sponsor for 2012 in the next Bulletins !!

As I write, it is still hopeful that David Stancombe will be standing down as Membership Secretary. We have a willing Old Boy to take on the task and save David having to travel to and from Norfolk on a regular basis. Again, we are tremendously indebted to David for resurrecting the Association and I am sure that we can possibly improve on David's work with some more effort from Old

Boys who are willing to come onto the Committee. (ED: No change from last time !!)

It is not an onerous task, four committee meeting each year, usually on a Wednesday evening, starting at 7.30pm, plus the AGM and Annual Reunion in April. Give it some thought and talk to me if you have any questions.

Reunion

The AGM and Annual Dinner are now being finalized as is the Hockey Match. At the end of the Newsletter you will find :-

- The Agenda for the AGM
- The Minutes from last Year's AGM
- Details of Menu and Toasts
- The order form for the Dinner, together with details on how to send the requests to me.

The School will be open in the afternoon for Old Boys to visit the Library etc. There will be an over 30's v under 30's Hockey Match in the afternoon.

Craig Hunter is our speaker this year and here is a brief CV to whet your appetite ! :-

Left HBS in July 1979, as Deputy Head Boy
Chef de Mission of the England Team at the 2010 Commonwealth Games
Deputy Chef de Mission – preparation of British team at the 2012 Olympic Games
British Swimming Team Manager 1989 to 2006
Founding Director of company specialising in compliance and governance consultancy

Now that's a job spec I think lots of us could only dream about !!

This year, if at all possible, I would like to have the money in before the event, to save me chasing after you on the night !

In Memorium

I have to report the loss of three members, two ex-staff and one Old Boy, together with two other Old Boys..

Ian Pearce

John Mayhead writes :- Do you remember Ian Pearce? Sadly, I am going to the Vale for his funeral at mid-day today! He was born on the 18th of January, 1934 and died on the 18th of October. He worked for me at one time. At the present moment I know no more than someone telling me that his death was noted in the Comet. I seem to spend a lot of time going to funerals, I asked the doctor why this is, he says, that it has something to do with my age!

Robert (Bob) McLeish

Bob was a man of contrasts and it is perhaps especially fitting that Joseph read for us that ancient poem of stark contrasts. War and peace, hate and love, weeping and tears all jostle for their place in our lives. Bob's life was no different.

Bob had relatively humble beginnings. He grew up in the "jewelled Scottish hamlet" of Aberfeldy in Scotland where his parents ran the village shop. As a lad Bob cycled from home to home delivering groceries. His parents ensured he was rewarded for his work. Money may have been tight but Bob didn't go short. Into his twenties, Bob's parents provided regular pocket money. Even when Bob and his new wife returned home from their honeymoon they found a box of groceries on the doorstep. A sign of his mother's intention to continue looking after her son for many years to come! In time, Bob's sister, Agnes took over this responsibility and became a tremendous support to him.

Sport was always one of Bob's great passions. Jim Belford, one of Bob's oldest friends, who shared his student days in their celebrated digs at 424 Crow Road in Glasgow, tells the story of how he and Bob hitch-hiked from Perth to London in 1948 and managed to find favoured places to stand at the finishing line of most of the Olympic track events at Wembley Stadium. The journey down was not without adventure. Somewhere near Manchester, in immensely thick fog, Jim and Bob spent the night camping in what they thought was a field. In the cold light of dawn they found themselves in the middle of a large grassy "roundabout"!

Bob was capped 5 times for Scotland at hockey in 1958/59. The national side's record with his assistance comprised one win, with Scotland beating Belgium 2-1, one draw, against Wales; but, inexplicably, three losses: to the Netherlands, England and Ireland. The games were played at Dundee, Grangemouth, Hawick, Aberdeen and Amsterdam. Save for the last, not the most glamorous life as a sports international!

Bob's long teaching career began in Scotland but, peeved at not being appointed to a job he coveted, he moved with his wife and children south where he taught at Hitchin Grammar School for Boys from 1959-1981. Blairgowrie's loss was Hitchin's gain.

His influence as a teacher was wide spread. It has not been uncommon for Aileen and Robin to be told, on mentioning their surname to a chance acquaintance that he had been taught by a Mr McLeish. That was their father, who had been *a positive and inspirational influence on young impressionable pupils.*

On hearing of Bob's death, Tony Buckland, another former student, wrote: *I have very fond memories of him. His approach to teaching was very different and I believe he was one of the very few who treated us like young adults.* Blueharts (the hockey club which had a strong connection with Hitchin Grammar School) flourished after he took on the role of hockey player and coach and a large number of quality hockey players emerged during his time. And in the words of another student on hearing of Bob's passing: *I think of*

*bitter, frosty, knee scrape, February days on the Russell Field when a superb rugby player attempted to teach me to turn my a**se and pass, whilst I fumbled like the dozy Welshman he frequently accused me of being!! Please remember, as I will, what a wonderful inspirational teacher and sportsman he was.*

Bob was likewise a valued and respected colleague. A former deputy head has written: *“Bob was a much-loved personality at Hitchin Boys' School. He was a legend as an international hockey player and enlivened us with his quirky humour. His Scottishness was very much a part of his character and he could have found a place in a latter-day Robert Louis Stevenson novel! He will always be part of my package of fond memories of the school.”* Bob is also remembered as an exceptionally talented pianist, an interest he retained to the end of his life, regularly entertaining his fellow residents of the Laurel Dean Residential Home where he spent the last four years or so of his life with dignity and kindness.

Among those who learned hockey at Bob's feet were Bernie Cotton and Dave Whitaker, who, as coaches, took the Great Britain Hockey team to the Olympics in Seoul in 1988. Bob can undoubtedly be credited with being one of the architects of the team's gold medal. Dave wrote of Bob: *“He was a wonderfully kind person who had a very positive influence upon so many. It was Bob who provided much of the initial motivation and inspiration that attracted me towards Physical Education and Coaching”*.

In retirement Bob honed his skills as a golfer, having, as another of his colleagues said: *a very fine golf swing, which he executed with metronomic ease.* In one Christmas “thank you” letter to his grandchildren he wrote: *“Your arctic explorer's cap is coming in useful on the golf course. All I need now is a pair of huskies to pull my clubs up Letchworth's icy hills!”*

In many ways Bob was a sociable and gregarious man. Letters to family and friends confirm his strong sense of irony and quick wit. On at least two occasions Bob was instrumental in reuniting old friends and colleagues: a Scottish get-together of the Jordan Hill teacher training college students, 45 years on, and a staff reunion for Hitchin Grammar School. Those links with

old friends and colleagues clearly meant a lot to Bob. In later years, his courtesy and charm continued to make him well-liked and will mean he is much missed.

John Eyres Gwinnell 1935 – 2001

John died on January 1st 2011 after a formidable fight against cancer. A celebration of his life was held at St. Columba's Church Hull on Wednesday 12th January. The Association President, Tony Buckland and the President Emeritus, David Stancombe both attended the service.

John was appointed to the School by Maurice Dolden in 1959 to teach Geography. This was his first teaching post since graduating at University College Oxford and completing his National Service. He became second master in 1969 until he left in 1973 to take up the post of Vice-Principal at Stockton 6th Form College. While at Hitchin he showed his strength of character in the classroom, the staffroom and on the games field. He was much respected for his handling of boys and staff, firm yet fair, and was always able to give a calm reasonable response on any occasion. When John joined the staff the popular Easter walking parties for sixth formers at HBGS and HGGS were organised by Ernie Whitworth but it wasn't long before John took over and carried on the tradition until he moved on to pastures new. To this day there is many a tale told of some adventure or occasion on these trips and they are always remembered with fond memories of their contemporaries and the staff who gave up their holiday time to accompany the party. On the games field John enjoyed a variety of sports, golf, cricket and hockey being the main ones. He became a member of the Old Boys Hockey Club, Blueharts and enjoyed playing with past and present members of the school. He later took up umpiring a role he played with suitable aplomb. But it was golf that he carried on playing throughout his retirement.

John's appointment to Stockton Sixth Form College involved him in setting up a new educational establishment, being involved with much of the proposed building plans and appointing the staff.

While at Stockton (his first experience of a mixed school) he continued his love

of hockey and introduced many of the students to the delights of fell walking. He was even persuaded to appear in a college production of Salad Days, as the rather camp Couturier and the Bishop.

After four years in Stockton John uprooted the family to move south and take up the post of Headmaster at St Edwards Church of England School, Romford. He held this post for eight years and during this time his skills as a communicator, diplomat and counsellor became even more apparent, (Not apparently all the time; on one occasion on the hockey field he refused to get out of the way of a bully (from somewhere in Essex!) and finished up with a smashed collar bone.)

Then John went back north to take over the guiding role at Hull Sixth Form College. After 12 years here he retired. Retired wasn't a word that you used with John. He had already become involved with St. John's College York. This role he continued until illness made the travel to York too arduous. His major contributions at York involved the sale of a companion college in Ripon; the use of the large amount of money accrued from this sale was used in the enlarging and upgrading of the facilities at St. John's to form a university college from the previous teacher training one.

John was also heavily involved with the Hull Education Committee and would frequently be asked to chair committees where educational, political and financial interests were in opposition to one another. He would listen to the arguments, frequently long-winded, and then succinctly summarise the salient points and leaves others to decide what to do. It is this quality that so many admired in John. His involvement in church work increased. He was, for the Archbishop of York, a senior selector for ordinands for 10 years, on Bishop of Hull's "think tank", Deanery Synod etc, etc!

Our condolences go to Ann, John's wife for over half a century, his three sons, Peter Christopher and Jonathan, and all the following generation. It was particularly moving to listen to the tributes that the three sons paid to their father; and the talk by the Ven. Peter Harrison of John's strong Christian belief and service to the Church. He was able to show some of the light-hearted

moments that they shared on the golf course. I know where all those golfing jokes came from now. I am proud to have known John for over 50 years as a colleague, a team member and a friend. Together with Ann and Sheila we have shared many happy occasions at the theatre, listening to music and of course good food and fine wine. There was always plenty of the latter for us to enjoy. John was a good man, gracious, genuinely godly, and a caring person. He was erudite and respected by the many who have known him in various walks of life. He will be sorely missed yet leave a fund of happy memories for those of us lucky enough to have known him.

David Stancombe

(1949 – 1957 and 1965 – 1995)

Dick Carnill

From his brother Denys : My brother Dick died just before Xmas after a long illness. His funeral took place near Knebworth on 10th Jan. Dick left school after his School Cert in about 1940/41 to go into his father's business. He had an unpleasant time in the Army, going across to France on DDay +1 and being involved in bitter fighting around Caen. More cheerfully, he joined Blueharts when he was demobbed. ED : Dick was a long time member of Blueharts and one of the influences on the younger members of the Club. He was a very sociable man, except on the Hockey field, where he was rather uncompromising !!

H.F. (Tony) Creasey

Again from Denys Carnill : My cousin Tony Creasy (H.F. Creasy) died early in the New Year. I saw him last, about three years ago I think, when he came as a Lancashire supporter in their game against Gloucestershire C.C. at the Cheltenham Festival. Latterly his sight became poor and he was more or less confined to a scooter cum wheel chair. Tony left HBGS after School Cert (1940/1?) to go into the Royal Navy as an artificer.

New Members

David S still seems to be pulling them in and we have had a number of new members sign up over the last couple of Months. Do encourage friends, who you know are Old Boys to sign up. It is not expensive, as you well know and, whatever your memories of the school, there is always someone you got on with during that time !

News from Members

Rodney Woods

Good to hear from you. Yes, I have been a teacher and school administrator all my working life, and until 1995 that was in independent boarding schools in Britain. My first wife unfortunately died of cancer in 1993, I remarried, and that brought me over to the United States where I have been living and working ever since. I am now semi-retired, but still do some teaching at an independent day school in Sarasota, Florida. My address is: 8612 Woodbriar Drive, Sarasota, Fl. 34238. I did attend a reunion at the school in 1994 (I think) and met up with some old contemporaries, but have since lost touch. I would love to be able to get in contact again.

Barry Bremner

The recent excitement over the Ashes test matches reminds me of the summer of 1952 when I was in the sixth form. The GCE exams were on the go and we were moved out of our form room, which became an exam room and we were told to take up temporary residence of the lecture room. All our text books etc were piled up around the lecture room and we used them to hide a radio on which we listened, in a clandestine manner to the England v. South Africa test

match that was taking place at that particular time. It was the Lords match, I recall, and we surreptitiously passed handwritten bulletins on the scores around the school.

We did our best to keep our radio a secret and kept a wary eye out for any masters who might be nearby, and we were convinced that we had been successful in that quest until at a vital stage on the last day of the test match, Messrs Frank Tromans, Stan Rainbow, Dinger Webb and Bill Bowker all made sudden appearances at the lecture room door and asked for the scores - all promising with knowing winks to keep the secret of our cricket radio station!

Peter Massam (1975)

I am currently a director at a mobile device management company with global product responsibility, championing the cause of customer experience management.

I have had brief spells working abroad in France and Kenya before settling back in the UK.

My wife, a teacher, and I now live with our 2 children in Oxfordshire.

ED :- I have also heard from many other old boys, usually those who have forgotten the User Name and Passwords for the web site !! Davison Millane, Mike Hall, Olaf Hoeg, Rod Bullard, Nigel Richardson, Andrew Llewellyn are a few. Graham Stubbs has been in contact from his home in Western United States and has an impending meeting with Roger Thirnbeck, who is touring from his home in Canada. Tony Hull is in Australia, impatiently waiting for his first Grandchild to be born. I don't think he will be doing much babysitting from his home in Toronto!

Please keep in touch, through me, to tell your old friends where you are and what you are doing now. Then arrange to meet up for the reunion on April 2nd 2011.

School News

Martin Brown is settling in at the School and wondered if any Old Boys would be able to provide informal assistance to the Boys.

He says :- ‘Hitchin Boys’ School Sixth Formers are currently making decisions about future careers and are always keen for advice and guidance from Old Boys with careers experience. If you are prepared to be contacted by the School directly, please send details of your name, Careers on which you could give advice and an e-mail contact. Please send the details to Head of Sixth Form, Ms Jackie Lansdown (lansdownj@hbs,herts.sch.uk).

Martin is still in his first year in charge and his first report will be at the AGM and the Reunion Dinner.

Memorabilia Sales

My special offer of the last bulletin only sold three sets, very disappointing !! Offer is still open.

******* Special Offer – All three items for £10.00, including p&p !!!**

All prices include postage and packing.

Centenary Badge - £5.00



Print of school view – signed and numbered - £5.00

There is another option, to have a framed copy with the Badge from ‘The Picture Framer’ at 30, Sun Street Hitchin, Tel: 01462 453272. Esther Kirk will assist you and she is, in fact, Rob Varey’s niece. Rob was Head boy in about 1957/8.

CD of centenary concert + programme - £5.00

ORDER FORM

Item(s) required :-

Name:

Years at School: -

Address:

.....
.....
.....

Cheques made payable to HBSOBA and sent to Peter Hollingsworth – contact details are at the end of the bulletin.

Contact Addresses for HBSOBA

Communications for the Association and memorabilia queries may be sent to the **Hon. Sec. Peter Hollingsworth**

01462 834854 07758 649721

hbsobasec@googlemail.com

8 Baldock Road, Stotfold, Hitchin. Herts. SG5 4NZ

Membership matters, please contact **David Stancombe**

01366 328153

davidstancombe@tiscali.co.uk

Beck Springs, Beckett End, Foulden, Thetford, Norfolk. IP26 5AF

or via our website www.oldboysonline.com

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association

AGENDA for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held on

Saturday 2nd April 2011 at 6.00pm in the School Library

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**
- 3. Matters arising**
- 4. Hon Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Accounts**
- 5. Hon Secretary's Report**
- 6. Election of Officers and Committee Members :**
 - President for 2011 - A. G. Buckland**
 - President for 2012 -**
 - Vice Presidents :** D.C.Baines, T.P.Brooker, W.S.Bowker, J.C.Burges, D.Carnill, E.M.Cooke, R.F.K.Corder, J.C.Coxall, C.C.Day, S.C.Harding, J.R.Mayhead, M.A.Norris, B.D.Robinson, G.H.Russell, G.L.Shaw, D.E.Simmonds, O.J.Stedman, M.J.Steeley, N.A.Thompson, R.T.Whitmore
 - Hon. Treasurer - M. E. Hart**
 - Hon. Secretary - P. R. Hollingsworth**
 - Committee Members :**
 - Retiring in 2011 - A.Russell, M.Jones
 - Retiring in 2012 - R.J.MacArthur, M.Russell
 - Retiring in 2013 - H. Gregory
 - Election of Member for this year - M.J.Cranfield
 - Co-opted for 2011 - A.Russell, M.Jones
 - Nominations from the floor
- 7. Re-appointment of Hon Auditors – Messrs Watts Knowles Hunt**
- 8. Head Teacher's Review**
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 10. Close of Meeting**

HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Formerly Hitchin Grammar School Old Boys' Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 6.00pm. on 24th April 2010 in the School Library

Present: Richard Whitmore (President), David Simmonds ,
David Stancombe, Keith Wadsworth (Headteacher), Stuart Halsey,
D.A. Brown, M. J. Pratt, Ian Hare, Neil Thomson, Andy Russell, G. L. Shaw, Hugh
Russell, Gavin Bowyer, Howard Gregory, Norman Greensheilds, Tony Buckland, Peter
Hollingsworth (Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Mark Hart, Mat Jones, and numbers of other old boys
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on April 22nd 2009 were taken as read and confirmed on the proposal of David Stancombe and seconded by Stuart Halsey.
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matter arising.
4. **Hon. Treasurer's Report:**
Due to the absence of the Hon Treasurer, the Hon Secretary read out the report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009
Hugh Russell proposed and Tony Buckland seconded that the Statement of Accounts be adopted. This was agreed unanimously. The accounts and the report are an appendix to the minutes. The President proposed a vote of thanks for the Hon Treasurer and the meeting expressed its appreciation for the Treasurer's good work throughout the year.
5. **Hon. Secretary's Report:**
The Hon. Secretary presented his first report to the meeting Report. Stuart Halsey proposed and Andy Russell seconded that the report be accepted. The report forms an appendix to these minutes.
6. **Election of David Stancombe to the position of Life President Emeritus:**
The President outlined what David had done for the Association over the past years and how his enthusiasm had kept the Association functioning, culminating in a triumphant Centenary Celebration in 2009. The president proposed the adoption of the proposal, Tony Buckland seconded. All were agreed, together with a hearty vote of thanks to David.
6. **Election of Officers and Committee:** The following members were put forward by the committee and elected or confirmed in office. The meeting agreed unanimously.
 - **President for 2009:** Anthony Buckland (Proposed Richard Whitmore, Seconded David Stancombe) All were agreed. Richard then vacated the Chair for Tony to continue the proceedings.
 - **President for 2010:** Anthony Buckland
 - **Vice-Presidents:** D.C.Baines, T.P.Brooker, W.S.Bowker, J.C. Burges, D.Carnill, E.M.Cooke, R.F.K.Corder, J.C.Coxall, C.C.Day, S.C.Harding, J.R.Mayhead, M.A.Norris, B.D.Robinson,

G.H.Russell, G.L.Shaw,D.E.Simmonds, O.J.Stedman, M.J.Steeley, N.A.Thomson, R.T.Whitmore

- **Election of new Vice Presidents:** D. Garvie, K.Wadsworth
- **Hon. Treasurer:** M. E. Hart
Proposed by D. Stancombe and seconded by S. Halsey. All were agreed
- **Hon. Secretary:** P.R. Hollingsworth
Proposed by D. Stancombe and seconded by A. Buckland. All were agreed
- **Committee Members:** (Vacancies to be left to the discretion of the committee)

Retiring in 2011 – Andy Russell, Matthew Jones

Election of members to retire in 2012. Robert MacArthur,

Mark Russell,

Election of co-opted member for 2010 M.J. Cranfield.

Election of new Head Martin Brown to the Committee was agreed by all.

There were no nominations from the floor.

The above were proposed by David Simmonds and seconded by Hugh Russell.

The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of the new committee.

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

7. **Re-appointment of Honorary Accountants** – it was proposed by Peter Hollingsworth and seconded by David Stancombe to re-appoint WKH. The meeting expressed its thanks to Chris Maylin for his work on behalf of the Association.

8. **Headteacher's Review.** Mr President, gentlemen, I am conscious that on each of the ten previous occasions I've reported to you at your AGM I have said that the school is doing well and pretty much everything is hunky dory. This year I have to tell you that that is the case again. And I am pleased to tell you that.

In the summer examinations last year 76% of the boys got 5 or more GCSE passes at A* - C with 65% getting that including English and Maths. The first figure is the highest we've ever had. The 65% was admittedly below our target but they really are cranking the targets up AND changing the way of measuring success each year so I don't feel we need to be too disappointed. All the indications are that the current Year 11s will secure results that are even better: 86% have already got a C or better grade in English Literature and they have taken science exam in their Year 10 too which suggest that they will do very well.

The A Level results were certainly the best we have ever had and with university places becoming harder to get in the traditional subjects the boys now have to aim for A* A level grades too. We appear to looking to two more years at least of rising levels of achievement and that is very pleasing when OfSTED have raised the bar again: schools that were good in their last inspection are now only satisfactory and satisfactory schools are now being judged not adequate.

There has been such a ludicrous obsession recently with what they call safeguarding that schools are experiencing absurd inspection failures. Inspectors arriving for their visit and going straight to

the Head's office to say that the school has failed – before a lesson has been looked at – because they had seen a child walking through the car park. Or because the perimeter fence of a primary school is low enough for an adult to reach over and grab a child, or a teacher had a cup of coffee on her desk running the risk of child being scalded. And these are genuine stories.

It will be very, very hard for a school like this to keep its Good with many Outstanding features judgement.

HBS has long been highly regarded for its success on the sports field and that success has been reaching into sports where we have either not previously participated at all or which we have not focused on. As a result we have had tremendous success at district and county level in swimming, tennis, basketball and badminton as well as rugby, hockey and cricket. There has been a new focus on athletics where we became district champions at all but one age group and County Champions at U13 level. In tennis we were County Champions at U13 and U15. Two junior teams became county cricket champions. Maybe the team of the year was the Year 11 Basketball team which won everything at district and county level and reached the last 16 nationally – losing by just one point at that stage. Badminton teams at U14 and U16 reached county finals. We're also District Cross Country Champions at Year 7 and 9.

We continue to enjoy variable success in rugby and hockey, largely because we have to compete almost exclusively against schools in the independent sector, including those with boarders. But we've probably irritated neighbour schools by dropping into some of the district competitions and winning.

We have a national chess player, a national biathlete, an England Teo Kwondo competitor, a British kickboxing champion and the Junior Doubles Petanque champions.

In music I think we really go from strength to strength. Something like a hundred boys are in the school choir, the orchestra, jazz and swing bands and various ensembles continue and there are some really exceptional musicians throughout the school on a great range of instruments. Every year in the spring concert some of the Year 13 boys perform for the last time and I am fearful that their like won't emerge from the next years down but they always do.

The production this year was not a musical as it has been for several years and I thought it was not a wise choice, especially as it was decided to change very late on from Oh What a Lovely War to three Dad's Army episodes. In fact it was fantastic. Really funny and very well done indeed.

I shall say something about trips later this evening but it should be recorded that the list of trips – if you're interested to see those coming up over the next year or so they're on our website – just grows and grows. But linking trips with my comments about music and drama I'd like to mention one of the more bizarre events of the year.

To raise some money to help them go on their World Challenge trip to Mozambique the boys, with considerable help from biology teacher Rob Thorp and admin assistant Teresa Lee, organised a Strictly Come Dancing event. The boys paired off and genuinely choreographed dances, got the appropriate costumes and put together one of the slickest and funniest evening's entertainment I

have seen for a very long time. There was something surreal, possibly unnerving to see a rugby player dressed in a spectacular red dress, fully made up dancing the pasa doble doing all the lifts and moves that the dance requires.

It was just hysterical. On a sort of serious note I think it was a brilliant demonstration of how safe this school is – hard to describe that to OfSTED: no bloke would take a chance on that if they thought they would get an unpleasant response from their peers. Not only did they perform to a packed hall on the night but word got out about how good it was they repeated it for the school the following Friday to standing room only.

On the night I was the head judge and was totally stitched up by the other judges who left me with the casting vote for the winner. How to make friends for life with one pair and be accused of being susceptible to bribes by the other!

On other matters our new Language Specialism status is having a real impact. Lessons in various subjects are periodically being delivered in French or Spanish and even assemblies have been done that way too.

A group of boys recently put together for the BBC a news report. We brought in professionals to give the boys the opportunity to use professional sound, lighting and camera equipment and the programme was recorded as live and uploaded to YouTube and our website – you can still see it there.

We have now completed the refurbishment of what we used to call Bancroft and is now called Woodlands. It's being used for meetings, conferences and some sixth form teaching and it really is a very nice addition to our facilities.

We are absolutely full for next September with, once again, more boys wanting to come here than we can accommodate. We have very few staff leaving this year – that is tempting fate because they have until May 31st to tell me they're going – and we have filled all but one of the vacancies we have. The sixth form will be bigger than it has ever been – probably something in excess of 200, taking the school back to around 1000 after a rather smaller sixth form for this and last year.

My successor was appointed last month. The current deputy head of Wembley High Technology College, Martin Brown, will become the next head of HBS in September as I am retiring and I would like to think that he will be inheriting a school that is doing pretty well, has the potential to go further still and I feel sure it will be in very good hands, indeed.

May I thank those of you who put up with report each year, thank you for inviting me each year to present it, thank the Old Boys' Association committee for the work they do, not only for the Association but, through that for the school itself, and wish the Association continued success.

The President thanked the Head on a most interesting and informative address. He iterated the meetings feelings in congratulating KW on his work for the School over the past eleven years and how well he had supported the Association during that time.

9. **Any other business.** D.A. Brown wondered whether the Committee could look into having the old school photos put onto the web site. DS stated that there was an issue with the website regarding payment for content. PH would look into it during the year ahead.
10. **Close of meeting.** There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.48pm.

Date: 2nd April 2011 SignedPresident

Annual Dinner

Saturday 2nd April 2011 at 7.45pm.

**Meet in Main School Library
6.45pm. onwards**

MENU

**Romany Thick Vegetable Soup
Dinner Roll and Butter**

**Roast Turkey with Sausage and Stuffing
Fresh Vegetables in Season**

Blackberry and Apple Pie

Cheese and Biscuits

Coffee or Tea and Mints

Licensed Bar

Toast List

THE QUEEN

Welcome by the President
Tony Buckland(1963)

THE ASSOCIATION

The Headteacher
Martin Brown

Reply by the President

THE SCHOOL

Craig Hunter (1979)

Reply by the Head of School
Lewis Carmody

ABSENT FRIENDS

The President

There will be a raffle in aid of a Local Charity

Price of Tickets is £24.00

Dress is Jacket and Tie

HBSOBA Annual Dinner 2nd April 2011

Ticket Order

Name	
Address	
Post Code	
Year of leaving school	
No of tickets @ £24.00	
Cheque enclosed for	
EFT transfer detail (20 characters, Name plus xDT where x = no of tickets)	Barclays Bank Hitchin Sort Code 20-41-12 Account Number 40475017
Any special dietary requirements ?	
Are you part of a table group	
Are you enclosing a subscription ?	£5.00 per annum £40.00 for term (20 yrs)

Please send to :-

Peter Hollingsworth

8, Baldock Road

Stotfold, Hitchin

Herts

SG5 4NZ

e-mail panda_hollingsworth@yahoo.co.uk

Phone : - 01462 834854