



# Quarterly Bulletin



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FORMERLY HITCHIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY, 2011

**G**entlemen, the reunion approaches!! April 21<sup>st</sup> should be etched in your memory by now and also in your Diary! Don't forget that this is also the date of the AGM, which takes place before the dinner, please try to attend. We would like more Committee Members, please, if only to help out with events run by the Old Boys' Association. This year we welcome a new president, Keith Allard, who, I am sure, is very well known to a large number of Old Boys, due to his service to the School over the Millenia! I wish him a well deserved two years at the helm!

The application form for the dinner is attached and I have been able to hold the ticket price at £24.00. I certainly hope that our speaker this year, Simon Gainsford, will have lots of interesting tales to regale us with on the night.

I would like money to come with the tickets, please as it saves me the embarrassment of asking at the Dinner. The electronic payment option is also available for the e-mail applicants. See the end of the bulletin for the order form. I would very much like Old Boys to donate prizes for the Raffle and bring them along on the night. Please tell me what you will donate and, if you can't make the evening (shame on you) and you are near enough, I can collect it.

The menu for the reunion dinner is as follows:

**Cream of Asparagus Soup  
Dinner Roll and Butter**

**Roast Leg of Lamb & Red Currant Jelly  
Fresh Vegetables in Season**

**Dutch Apple Tart with Fresh Cream**

**Cheese and Biscuits**

**Coffee or Tea and Mints**

**Licensed Bar**

We are going ahead with the Summer event and there is more of this later in the Bulletin. Any profits will go towards the renovation of the Old Boys' Pavilion for use by the school Scout Troop.

## News from Members

**F**rom David Ebers:- OBs Mike Steward & Johnny Davis arrived on Air Mauritius to the island on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and we met them at Plaisance Airport; even after almost 60 years we had no problems in recognising each other and we brought them to our Albion home on the west coast where they were able to re-charge batteries after the flight with a dip in the pool.

It was a short stay and in this time we took them to several of the touristic places like Casela Bird Park, Grand Bay and Perebere and Cap Malheureux in the north with a view to Coin de Mire. Flic en Flac was also popular with them for beach and swimming. Port Louis our capital with the Caudan development and Port embarcation plus the seaside restaurants which catered admirably for our needs. In the South we visited Crocodile Park for the day next to Souillac and my own particular favourite Gris Gris.

We were very happy to have them and have since met in UK when we made our annual trip in June. Very happy to have welcomed them here and do hope another visit is 'on the cards'. It will be a pleasure.

**Michael Venn (1958)** would like to send a letter to Bill Bowker but did not have his address in Hitchin. (I hope they are now in touch. **Ed.**)

**Geoff Quentin** I used to be in regular receipt of newsletters etc. and even turned up on a couple of reunions many years ago but somehow I let it slip when I changed e-mail (**Cont. on Page 2**)

## School News

### Headteachers Report – February 2012

(This is a précis of a very comprehensive report, please see under 'News' on the website for the full report. **Ed.**)

Rotary Youth Speaks Competition: Earlier this term auditions were held to select an Intermediate and Senior team to compete in The Rotary Club's annual Youth Speaks competition. Boys from Years 7 and 10 auditioned and the standard was so high that Mrs. Maddocks and Mrs. Gale decided to enter a total of four teams, two in each age division. The boys chose their own topics, wrote and learnt their speeches rehearsing everyday prior to the competition. On 9 January all four teams competed at The Queen Mother Theatre in Hitchin. The standard in both divisions was extremely high with HBS boys competing not only against each-other but also against teams from Knights Templar and The Priory School. Much to the delight of their families and teachers, teams from HBS won both divisions and our non-winning teams secured second place in their respective divisions. Both teams have since won their places in the District finals.

### Events which may interest Old boys are:-

Sport Relief Day – Friday 23 March

(**Cont. on Page 3**)

Communications for the Association and memorabilia queries may be sent to the **Hon. Sec. Peter Hollingsworth.**  
**T: 01462 834854 M: 07758 649721**  
**E: hbsobasec@googlemail.com**  
**8, Baldock Road, Stotfold, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. SG5 4NZ**

Membership matters, please contact **Howard Gregory, the Membership Secretary.**  
**M: 07876 246122**  
**E: howard.gregory@talktoroger.com**

(Cont. from Page 1) addresses.

Anyhow I thought I would look up the association and it is still going strong so I think I will try to make it to the April 2012 dinner and try to bring along Ken Teacher as well.

I used to be a member and think that I was even down as a life member as I gave Gabby Parker my £30 quid decades ago. (Didn't we all!!! Ed.)

A few years ago I took my wife on a spring Sunday drive around the whole area even going to where my parents house was in Lancaster Avenue and also to where we were from 1970 to 1974 in Hitchin Road Stotfold for the first four years of our marriage. Of course we saw the changes but it is still a delightful place to live and far more peaceful than busy and crowded Southend-on-Sea.

**Mike Steeley** was in touch, to change his e-mail address and he tells me that Kieth Crockford is still playing golf five times a week at Lower Stondon!!

#### Ref: The German Hockey Matches

**From Derek Hillman (1938-43):-** With reference to the small piece in the Bulletin about Stan Rainbow, he did play football for Barking before the war, it was a top amateur team. He told me this in 1938 when I arrived at the Grammar School as a first year pupil, after spending my primary school years in Barking. I got to know Stan well at school, having him as my history master and football coach in the first XI for two years. He also played in the team when we played adult teams, e.g. the local army units, during the war years. I can understand his objection to the introduction of Rugby!

He was also a good hockey player, a game I could not master. However, I managed a few appearances in the Second XI. Robert Bowker noted that his Father was part of the German Hockey match but referred us to Bill for more information !

**From Danny Walton:-** I have just had a phone call from an Old Boy called Peter Halsey (1940-46) in response to the article in the Comet & Daily Mail recently about the visiting German hockey team that did a nazi salute in front of our 1<sup>st</sup> XI boys prior to starting the match. His brother, JR Halsey, was in the HBS team and Peter was keen to talk to anyone who wanted to know more about it. He lives in Devon and is over 80. Peter Ashmole called from his domicile in France to say that he had some memories from his brother about the match.

#### From John Barrel (Ref: The German Hockey matches and the School in the 30s)

Dear Peter,

I have read with great interest your recent exchange of e-mails with Diane and it was good to learn that the recent article in the Daily Mail about our old school had engendered a good response. I was particularly interested in the accompanying photograph as 3 years previously in March 1936, I and other members of the school hockey 1<sup>st</sup> XI had stood in the centre circle on successive days to greet two touring hockey teams from Germany. The first match was against a team from Heilbronn, and the following day we played a team from Jena. Both games were drawn 1 - 1 and were played in a good spirit and, as far as I can remember, there were no political or other undertones. During the visit I remember Mr Bowker quite well and, although he never taught me in class, he was certainly a hard taskmaster as a cricket coach along with Mr Thomas who, I believe, had played for Worcester 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

My only other connection with Germany whilst at school had been in the previous year when our German master, Mr Bird, together with Mr Rainbow, had taken a group to the Rhine during the Easter holidays of 1935. After crossing the channel, I remember taking an overnight train from Ostend to Cologne which was the starting point of our holiday. We then proceeded by foot, train and boat to travel down the Rhine as far as Koblenz - or possibly a little further, I can't recall now. On route we visited many places of interest and, of course, we went by boat past the Lorelei. I do recollect quite well standing on a promontory at Koblenz looking at the confluence of the clear waters of the Moselle and the rather dirtier waters of the Rhine - there was quite a distinct line in those days. During our tour we stayed at various youth hostels all of which seemed to be mainly occupied by members of a German youth club all dressed in a military style of uniform - possible the forerunners of the Nazi youth. After our evening meal they would sing German marching songs - somewhat different from the mundane camp fire songs we sang as boy scouts back home. On our return home we were bombarded with literature, newspapers and other propaganda material all of which Mr Bird told us to destroy. However I did keep one local newspaper describing our visit which after 76 years has faded to a certain extent.

#### Other events

Before the war we used to sit for the Oxford School Certificate (as your father would have done, Peter) and the English Literature syllabus always included a work by Shakespeare. In 1936 it was Twelfth Night and the English master decided to produce it for a wider audience of parents etc. Although I only had a small part, by the time the play was produced at the end of the Summer term 1936 I pretty well knew the play off by heart.

An old boys reflections of school in the 1930s:

During term time school uniform had to be worn at all times, including weekends. I can only recall this rule being relaxed on one occasion and that was on the death of King George V when we were permitted to wear black ties for a week.

Morning assemblies were also strictly observed - a hymn, lesson read by a prefect, collects and prayers by the headmaster and then a final hymn. On the last of term we

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## New Members

**Jack Fox (1948)**, who lives in London NW3.

**Richard Wilson (1982)**, who lives in Hitchin :-

I own and run Chasestead Ltd, an engineering company in Letchworth. We manufacture prototypes for the automotive, aerospace and defence industries. My son is currently at HBS in year 9.

**Stuart McReynolds (2002):-** I am very interested in joining the Old Boys' Association, and would be most grateful if you could pass on the details on how to download the application form. I was Head Boy from 2001-2002, and have spent the past few years playing professional rugby around the World. I am currently playing for Team Canada Rugby League, and managing education programs across Canada for the Canadian Paralympic Committee. It would be great to catch up with old friends, and reminisce of days gone by!

**Mike Andrews (1968 – 75)** has applied to join. He lives in Derbyshire now.

**Ken Porter**, currently living in Dublin, has joined as Term Member

**Robert Dalling (1967 -74)** has requested an application

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The answers to the questions:-

I had three responses, pretty good really.

*Q: When railway fares were increased in the ratio 7:4, the fare for a certain journey was increased by 16s 6d. What is the new fare?*

*A: £1-5-41/2 or £1-18-6 or £1-8-101/2*

*Q: Express 67320 in prime factors.*

*A: 2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 5, 11, 17*

*Q: A car is said to travel 32 miles on a gallon of petrol, but actually it travels only 26 miles on a gallon. How much more petrol is used in travelling 4160 miles than was expected?*

*A: 30 Gallons*

*Q: What is one-eleventh of £131 2s 4 1/4d?*

*A: £11-18-43/4*

*Q: The total cost of six equal panes of glass is 16s 3d, and the total area is 3 1/3 square yards. Find the cost per square foot of the glass and the length of each pane if they are all 24 inches wide.*

*A: 6 1/2d per sq ft, 2 ft 6 inches*

also had a further mid-morning assembly when we had prayers, the headmaster wishing us a happy holiday followed by a hymn which we sung only 3 times a year but which we all knew well. Lord dismiss us with thy blessing. On my last day at school when singing part of the last verse of that hymn - May the father's hands be shielding, those who were here shall meet no more - that in 3 / 4 years I and others like me would be in a different uniform to the one we were then wearing - perhaps it was just as well. In the late summer of 1936 my family moved to Orpington which place offered an excellent train service to where both my father and sister were employed and where I would subsequently be employed as well.

On leaving school I did join the Old Boys Association and still have a faded tie somewhere in the archives. I also attended one dinner at the Sun Hotel before the war but with only a tenuous connection with Hitchin and the intervention of war, I lost touch with my roots. Now through the article in the Daily Mail I am once again in touch with my Alma Mater.

With all best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

John Barrell 1931-1936. Ex Radcliffe House

**Dr Peter Talbot** writes on part of his 'adventure' in Australia:- The Road to Nowhere?

The iconic rite of passage drives in the Australian bush are the Nullarbor Plain east/west along the south coast between South Australia and Western Australia and the Stuart Highway north/south through the 'red centre' between South Australia a Darwin in the Northern Territory. Nowadays both are broad bitumen, well travelled, with multiple roadhouses and rest areas.

To more realistically appreciate the barren wastes of the Australian outback there is another 'road' stretching east/west in northern WA for some 600 km. From the awesome chasms and gorges of the Kara Jini NP just east of the mining townships of Tom Price and Paraburdoo to, well, nowhere. It eventually meets the Brand Highway to the north of the Nanutarra roadhouse. Now this is adventure if one wishes to stick with bitumen roads.

At the eastern end of the narrow road is a sign warning vehicles to ensure: extra fuel and water, recovery gear, HF radio, etc. Said sign then advises those lacking in confidence to wait for a tag-along opportunity (convoy?), those thinking they will be fine to also wait, those confident to head off; over-confidence is definitely a threat! It is hot, not a building, bright orange and spectacular mountains of iron ore, minimal traffic (if any), no support but a couple of rocky camping areas. This is a glorious drive for those prepared for Hammersley Range and the Pilbara but you travel alone.

No wonder the road sign has been amended by a cynic from 'nowhere' to 'Hell'. We wonder what their trip was like? Ours was one to remember.

**Peter Roth:** - I am Peter Roth and was at the school 1962-1969. I did A-levels in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Studied Physics at UMIST, Manchester and am now living in Bnei Brak, Israel. I am working for an Israeli government project managed by Ness Technologies.

The new style bulletin is a good change only the font should be larger. I know it will then cost more to print but maybe the advertisements will cover this. (He also answered the question!! **Ed.**)

Mike Pratt also answered the Questions!!

**Graham Jackson:** - Just a quick question of intrigue. I used to go to HBGS 1970-75 and played rugby, hockey and cricket. Talking to an elderly friend of my parents, he attended Letchworth Grammar, I guess around 1945-50 and he said that at that time his school could not play rugby against HBGS as they did not play the game, only football. I was quite surprised by this as I thought HBGS always played rugby, never football. Do you have any knowledge on this? Bet Mr 'when I was in the Army' Allen would have known!! (Don't worry, I was there and gave him the reply!! **Ed.**)

**Michael Davison:** - I owe subs for last year and this! How much do I owe and to whom should I send a cheque? If you could let me have the necessary details, and address, would be much appreciated.

Did I see somewhere some one was compiling a list of old boys who had married girls from 'up the hill'.

I married Dorothy Hunt, who stayed till the 6<sup>th</sup> form and as you may know my sister, Judith Davison, married Rodney Wray, an old boy who sadly died last March. Hope this information is of use. Rodney started courting Judith when she was still at school and at the time was fortunate to be running an MG TD followed by a TR2 when I and many others were still push bike bound! I have forgotten another old boy I met recently. George Helcke came to our daughter's wedding.

**Eric Nutter (1959)** Has requested that, as it is the diamond Jubilee of when he started at the School all of you who started in 1952 should get together for the reunion this year!! (He probably thinks you will all be too old to meet in seven years time!!! **Ed.**) PLEASE MAKE THE EFFORT!

#### LIONHEART WORSLEY LOSES BATTLE WITH INJURY

Joe Worsley, our speaker at the Centenary Dinner has had to retire from rugby due to a serious neck injury. A serial winner with World Cup, Premiership and Heineken Cup medals, the 34 year old had hoped to battle his way through another season. But, after 16 seasons at the sharp end he has decided that the risk to his long term health is too great.

As well as being a Wasps star over the last seasons he also gained 71 Test caps and played for the British and Irish Lions.

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#### (Cont. from Page 1)

Ferret Racing – Saturday 24 March

Summer Fair – Saturday 23 June

(For details see the report on the website. **Ed.**)

#### Academy Conversion for Hitchin Boys' School:

Over the last year the governing bodies of most schools and almost all secondary schools have had to consider whether academy status would be appropriate for their school in their situation. The governors of Hitchin Boys' School have been discussing the potential advantages and routes towards academy status. Currently there are 33% of schools in the Country which have converted to Academy status, in Hertfordshire the number is over 50% . Of the 8 schools in the North Herts area, 5 are academies or about to become academies. (KT, HGS, Freman, Meridian are academies and The Priory School have also confirmed their intention to become an Academy.)

Our investigations into likely cost/benefits of Academy status have involved conversations with the Local Authority, reviews of contracts and meeting with the Business Manager at Hitchin Girls' School as well as use of the Department for Education website.

Therefore at a meeting of the Main Board of the Governing Body of Hitchin Boys' School on Thursday 9th February 2012, it was decided to proceed with registering interest in converting the school to an academy.

We have now registered an interest with the Department for Education (DfE), met with existing academy trusts, visited schools that have converted to academy status, and sought information from numerous sources.

As a result of these discussions the governors have determined that we should consult formally on Hitchin Boys' School's proposal to proceed with an application to the DfE to convert to academy status.

This letter has been circulated to parents and stakeholders. (Old Boys are free to make a response if they feel the need. Ed.)

Dear parent /carer and other stakeholders

On behalf of the Governing Body of Hitchin Boys' School, I would like to inform you of our decision to register an interest with the Department of Education to convert to Academy status.

This letter is to start a period of consultation, at the end of which, the Governors of the school will decide whether to proceed with a full application to the Department of Education for a change of status.

Academy status brings with it a number of freedoms. Not the least of which is the ability to use the full delegated budget directly from central government. However, we anticipate that conversion to academy status will have no noticeable effect on the day to lives of students or staff. The move will nonetheless allow us to ensure that the current excellent standard of education is maintained.

Some further information regarding Academies and this consultation has been placed on the school website on [www.hbs.herts.sch.uk](http://www.hbs.herts.sch.uk).

We would like to invite comments and points of view from all stakeholders in Hitchin Boys' School. All stakeholders are invited to drop in to the school to meet the Head Teacher between 09.30 and 18.30 on Wednesday 7th March 2012. You can also write to Professor Robert Slater, Chair of Governors or me at the School with your views.

The consultation will close at 3.30 pm on Friday 9th March. All comments received will be reviewed by the school the following week, prior to a decision being made as to whether to apply to the Department of Education to become an Academy.

This is an important time in the development of Hitchin Boys' School and I would welcome as many views as possible to support us in making the decision.

yours faithfully

Mr M. Brown  
Head Teacher

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## In Memoriam

### Edward William Thornton (Bill) Kaye 1933 - 2012

Bill died very peacefully of non-Hodgkins lymphoma on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012. He had an infection and did not wish to go into hospital yet again, so he was given diamorphine at home which relaxed him and enabled him to accept the inevitable. The speed with which he went showed how ready his body was for the end but he kept on his feet and was enjoying life until the day before he died.

Bill was a classicist with a first class honours degree from Oxford University in Latin, Greek, Ancient History and Philosophy.

He started his teaching career at Rugby School moving to a Head of Department post at Sedbergh School and subsequently to a Headship at Bentham Grammar School. These credentials clearly made him an ideal candidate to take over the headship at Hitchin and maintain the traditions of our school at the same time as seeing through the introduction of a more comprehensive regime. Bill came to Hitchin in 1972 and remained until his retirement in 1987. Once Bill had appointed you to a post at the school he trusted you to get on and do the job and this approach gave staff plenty of confidence. One statement (probably apocryphal) often attributed to Bill is 'I'll deal with county matters you get on with the teaching' However throughout his time at the school Bill made sure that he would have time to continue with some classroom teaching despite the frequent calls on him to attend to county and general administrative matters. He would also offer Greek lessons to students interested in the classics and this would include students from the other Hitchin schools. He would often have the odd student studying Greek in his office, both girls and boys, as this opportunity was offered to the girls "up the hill" and I guess to the girls at the High School who were also in the consortium.

Bill was not much of a sportsman although he was clearly proud of his rowing achievements for Corpus Christi College as his oar held a prominent position on his office wall. However, on the games field he was one of the also-rans but he did turn out for the Staff Hockey Team on a number of occasions, somewhere out on the left wing if my memory serves me right. We were quite a good team and beat most of the other staff XIs but struggled against the school 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

During his time at the helm Bill appointed some 120 staff; some staying throughout his time at the School, others going on to higher posts and headships of their own; some still remain at the school. Some, like me, were there when Bill arrived and continued after his retirement. Relations with the staff were not always easy and I remember him saying that I had let him down. It was the occasion when staff withdrew from those duties and out-of-school activities. I had left my union as I did not believe in strike action and had a sort of in-between role liaising with Bill and the staff room. Perhaps my loyalties were interpreted as being more towards my classroom colleagues, but I did keep to the letter of the law. I know Bill thought I had let him down. Having said that, he put in a tremendous effort, especially over the lunch period, to ensure all boys were fed and safe. On a lighter note, parties at Bill and Anne's house in Langford and Cardington were great fun with Bill in full Scottish regalia, dancing on the table.

Bill contributed to the Old Boys' centenary book "We were there" and his writing outlines what the School was like in those days and how he saw the responsibilities he had taken on as Headmaster. I liked his last paragraph – "Firstly, the secret of power; the two most important people in the school are the Caretaker and the Secretary; if the loos are bunged up or the central heating fails, you close; and the Secretary is the one who knows, or ought to know where the bodies are buried."

Anne and Bill had a wonderful life together and he ended in his own bed with her beside him, and no one could wish for more.  
Our condolences to Anne and the family for their sad loss.

**David Stancombe (Staff 1965 -1995)**

# AGM Agenda 2012

**Life President Emeritus: David Stancombe**

**Vice Presidents:** D. C. Baines, T. P. Brooker, W. S. Bowker, A. G. Buckland, J. C. Burges, D. Carnill, E. M. Cooke, R. F. K. Corder, J. C. Coxall, C. C. Day, D. Garvie, 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, K. Wadsworth, R. T. Whitmore.

**AGENDA for the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 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 2012 - K. Allard  
President for 2013 - K. Allard  
Hon. Treasurer - M. E. Hart  
Hon. Secretary - P. R. Hollingsworth  
Hon. Membership Secretary – H. Gregory
7. **Committee Members:**  
Retiring in 2012 - R. J. MacArthur, M. Russell  
Retiring in 2013 - M. J. Cranfield  
Retiring in 2014 - A. Russell, M. Jones, B. Chambers  
Co-opted for 2012 - R. J. MacArthur, M. Russell  
Nominations from the floor
8. **Re-appointment of Hon Auditors – Messrs Watts Knowles Hunt**
9. **Head Teacher's Review**
10. **Any Other Business**
11. **Close of Meeting**

**Peter Hollingsworth**  
Hon. Secretary



**Don't be ignored**

**Shout out with cutting  
edge designs and  
graphics**



# AGM Minutes 2011

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 6.00pm. on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011 in the School Library

**Present:** Tony Buckland (President), David Stancombe, Martin Brown (Headteacher), Stuart Halsey, Mark Hart (Treasurer), M. J. Pratt, Ian Hare, Neil Thomson, Andy Russell, G. L. Shaw, Howard Gregory, Keith Allard, Barry Bray, Leslie Mustoe, Derek Wheeler, Peter Hollingsworth (Secretary)

- 1. Apologies:** Peter Downey, Mike Norris, Martin Hoffman, Richard Womwell, Michael Cranfield.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010** were taken as read and confirmed on the proposal of David Stancombe and seconded by Mike Pratt.
- 3. Matters arising:**

There had been a request for the School photos to be placed on the website. The Secretary had not found a way so far but the School Librarian felt that it was possible and he would liaise with the Secretary.

Ian Hare mentioned that he had requested name tags be given to Old boys at the reunion, for recognition purposes and said that he would organise it. The Secretary would make sure for next year.
- 4. Hon. Treasurer's Report:**

Mark Hart, the Treasurer, presented his report. The items of note were that we had had to repay the auction money for the Saracens day out, which never materialised ( £200.00) and the payment for the Portrait of Keith Wadsworth (£613.00).

We had made a small profit over the year and it had been decided by the Committee that we should invest some of our Capital into some reasonable interest earning fund. Mark stated that we had put £9,000.00 into Government bonds (gilts) due out in 2013.

David Stancombe proposed and Mike Pratt seconded that the report should be adopted and all were agreed with a vote of thanks to Mark for his good works over the year.
- 5. Hon. Secretary's Report:**

Peter Hollingsworth reported that the year had gone well and Bulletins had been produced and distributed. He thanked Norgans for their support on the Postage and also to Brian Hillier who had donated £240.00 towards the postage for 2011. He was still struggling with the web site, although most reports were on the site. He still could not do the headlines very well. There was potential from the School to give some help and he would follow that up. Membership was creeping up, with steady interest through the year. Peter gave a vote of thanks to David Stancombe, who had, at long last handed over the Membership Secretary's role to Howard Gregory. He wished Howard the best of luck.
- 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 2011:** Anthony Buckland (Proposed Peter Hollingsworth, Seconded Mike Hart). All were agreed.

**President for 2012:** Keith Allard (Proposed Tony Buckland, Seconded David Stancombe). All were agreed

**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 (Elected en bloc).

**Election of new Vice Presidents:** D. Garvie, K. Wadsworth (Proposed Tony Buckland, Seconded Peter Hollingsworth). All were agreed. It was agreed that Vice Presidents did not need to be re-elected each year.

**Hon. Treasurer:** M. E. Hart (Proposed by D. Stancombe, Seconded by S. Halsey). All were agreed

**Hon. Secretary:** P. R. Hollingsworth (Proposed by Tony Buckland, Seconded by Ian Hart). 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 member to retire in 2013** – M.J. Cranfield.

**Members co-opted for 2011** – A. Russell, M. Jones, K. Allard.

The above were proposed by Mark Hart and seconded by Ian Hare.

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 Mark Hart and seconded by Peter Hollingsworth to re-appoint WKH. The meeting expressed its thanks to Chris Maylin for his work on behalf of the Association.
- 8. Headteacher's Review:** Martin Brown was very pleased to address the Old Boy's, it was a first for him. His theme for the school was 'tradition with innovation'. The school would not become an Academy. The exam results were best ever but we were only still middling, there was a way to go yet to improve the results. However, when measured via the English Baccalaureate we showed a much better position. This is because we stick to a traditional style of teaching. He returned from his half term Skiing holiday to find the OFSTED inspectors about to arrive! It was a bit of a battle because they wanted change some of the ground rules but the school came out as 'Good with outstanding features'.

Martin reported that on the Sports side the school was excelling at all sports, not just the Hockey, Rugby and Cricket. The school were district, area and National qualifiers in all sorts of other sports. He also instanced the high commitment of both the staff and the pupils in representing the school. On the music front there is a huge amount of interest in all facets of music, which he instanced by the fund raising carried out in the Town on Comic Relief Day. There were Buskers, Choirs, the Orchestra, Jazz bands all round the Town and they raised over £3,800 on the day.

(A full report of the Head's review will be posted on the web site.)
- 9. Any other business:** There was no other business
- 10. Close of meeting:** There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012

Signed .....President

**HBSOBA Annual Dinner 21<sup>st</sup> April 2012 - Ticket Order Form**

Ticket Price: £24.00

Dress: Jacket and Tie

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Year of leaving school.....

No of tickets @ £24.00.....

Cheque enclosed for £.....

**EFT transfer detail**

(20 characters, Name plus x DT 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)

£20 for Term renewal

**Please send to:-**

Peter Hollingsworth

8, Baldock Road

Stotfold, Hitchin

Herts

SG5 4NZ

e-mail: panda\_hollingsworth@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: 01462 834854