

Minutes of the OP Committee Meeting at the Naval Club

Tuesday 23rd February 2010

Present: R. Knight (President), M. Dumas (Chairman), T. Duhalde (Hon. Treasurer), I. Williams, K. Evans, S. Davis, A. Clifford, T. Garnier (Headmaster), A. Smith, C. Parry.

Apologies: T. Turner (Vice-President), M. Beale (vice-President), L C Stephens (Hon Vive President) W. Shuttleworth, C. Reed, R. Shuttleworth (Hon. Sec.), A. Fenwick-Wilson, N. Kilgour, A. Adams, P. Smitham, P. Lawrence

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 3rd November 2009

The Minutes were approved.

Matters Arising

Discussed later.

Chairman's Report

- The Chairman congratulated the editorial team on The Pangbournian magazine, which he thought was excellent. He had received many positive comments from OP's and most were very supportive.
- J. Hodgson was elected to the OP Committee but has subsequently written to advise that he has had a change of heart and no longer wishes to be on the Committee due to other commitments.
- It was suggested that Michael Penny join Robin Arnott as the decade representative for the 1940's. Michael lives in Sunningdale and is well known to OP's and regularly supports OP events.
- Three OP's set-off on a trip driving from the UK to Cape Town on 31st January '10 from the College. They were presented with the Devitt flag and are raising money for the College's 90th Appeal as well as the South African Red Cross hospital. They have reached Egypt and details are being updated on the OP website.
- The Chairman once again wanted to recognise the support of Lindsey Hughes who had driven from North Wales through a snowstorm to make sure the Cape Town departure went smoothly. He also said her all-round support to the OP committee was excellent.
- The College had kindly agreed to an OP's day on 6th November '10. There will be an AGM in the morning, a pub lunch and then a chance to support the College who will be playing the Oratory at rugby. It is also hoped that there is an OP girl's hockey game as well.
- Adrian Stowe, the 50's rep is continuing to do a marvellous job and has held two get togethers and one more is planned in Essex in early March in a pub run by an OP, John Vereker. Adrian doesn't use the OP website and Robin wanted to know the reason for this.
- The Chairman will attend the AROP's meeting in May.
- He has been asked to present to the Board of Governors meeting in November.

Honorary Vice-President's report

DEATHS

Since the last meeting, both the second and third oldest OPs have died

BC Hamilton 26-28 died in Nova Scotia, aged 99. RCN and prison governor. Wrote his memoirs, 'Ben's Yarns'. I received a copy from son which I have read and am about to put into the Library.

CM Inigo-Jones 27-29 Company director. Robin Knight attended memorial service.

Also:

I Gosling 40-44 MN and later Seagrams

GM Harrison 36-39 great correspondent. Advertising manager of Guinness.

RW Morris 40-42 rtd Cdr RN

VJ Pym 38-43 architect turned ordained priest

SJ Robertson 58-60 Journalist in Montreal

(all above have obits on the website)

Also: R Strang 41-43 Farmer in Cornwall

C Buckle 49-53 rtd Lt-Cdr RN

HB Curley 49-52 nothing known

(am waiting to hear from relatives of these before I write obits)

NEWS of OPs.

Charlie Sykes (81-85) is planning a 25-year reunion

Brian Jarman (43-47), former OP rep in USA has been terribly ill but is still smiling!

David Lewis (81-85) Cdr RN is a Liaison Officer to the Pakistan Military and is frequently in Kabul.

- With regards to Obituaries, L.C. Stephens hears about 70% of the Obituaries first, and to help streamline the process of adding this information to the website it was suggested that they are passed to Robin to amplify the details before posting to the site.
- Families contacting the College and magazines returned marked deceased are the other ways of being notified of deaths.
- Information is sought from Families to provide a detailed Obituary.
- The Chairman said he thought this process was working well and should continue.
- Robin also thought the information LCS supplied regarding David Lewis spending a large amount of time in Kabul could be expanded into an article for the website – Robin will liaise with David and LCS.
- The Chairman thanked LCS for his excellent report and information.

Headmasters Report

- The Headmaster said the major story at the college this year was the disruption caused by the snow.

- There was an OP's rugby game against the College in December '09, which was put together at the last moment – the College won an entertaining game. Jack Muggeridge was responsible for organising the OP team. Robin Knight asked the headmaster if a photo was taken to add to the website and if Martin Hart could write a report on the game.
- The Network with Notes campaign for the new Music/IT Centre is about £368,000 short of its target but the Headmaster is confident the target will be reached. The project is going to tender in March 2010. It is hoped the first earth moving on the site would occur on Founders Day 2010.
- Keith Evans received confirmation from the Headmaster that having girls at the College was a positive one (following a report from a school in Haslemere). The Headmaster stated it was the case from a multi-dimensional viewpoint, not just academically, and single sex schools were apparently in decline.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

- Tarka said this time of year was quiet.
- The OP society needs to submit its budget by the 20th March, which the Chairman committed to. It was noted that postage is likely to increase 10% in April.

Social / Sport sub-committee report

- Willie Shuttleworth is holding a reunion for ex Army OP's at the Turf Club in June.
- The reception on HQS Wellington was considered a great success. For some OP's it was their first ever OP event since leaving the college. Subsequently Andrew Simpson has been crowned world champion again in Rio de Janeiro (Jan '10); he asked if the College has contacts to raise sponsorship of £250,000 towards his Olympic challenge in 2012. The Chairman to respond.
- A reunion for the leavers in 1985 is being organised and to date there are up to 30 people attending.
- Currently 50 people are attending the OP Dinner on the 16th April – 100 people are targeted. A reminder was sent on the 23rd Feb and it was asked that the committee enrol their contemporaries. We want to encourage female OP's to attend.
- Ian Williams has contacted the College for an OP sailing match to compete for the Revival Regatta Cup, and six OP sailors are needed for the team.
- Apart from the two established golf days in the year, the Chairman has offered to host a golf match against the College at the Berkshire G.C. in May. Details to be finalised.
- Charlie Parry asked the OP Society to support a golf team to play in the Grafton Morrish cup at an expense of £1,000. As the benefits were viewed as limited it was declined. If the Golf Soc. wants to proceed then the cost should come from the golf society subscriptions.
- Although the College might not have a first VIII competing at Henley this year (although other crews will compete), plans are still going ahead for an OP tent at the Regatta.
- There are approx ten OP's willing to play in a tennis match against the College and Charlie is waiting for confirmation of a date from Martin Hart.
- An OP cricket match will once again be played against the College on Founders day.

Website sub-committee report

- The OP website continues to flourish and 1,200 OP's have updated their details on the website.
- Pictures are difficult to upload and this is due to the content management system. Without expensive "heatmap" software it is difficult to ascertain how many "hits" the website is receiving on a weekly basis. Steve Davis asked that £2,000 was budgeted for the yearly maintenance of the site – any money not spent would be diverted to the cost of the Pangbournian magazine.
- It was asked that more people, especially from the OP Committee, contribute content to the Website. Thanks were given to Robin and LCS who contribute so much of the current content.
- Steve Davis has established an OP group on Linked-In (a networking site for business professionals) and we need to spread the word to a greater number of OP's to sign up. There are numerous OP's on Facebook (mainly the younger generation of OP's) and it is recommended that this continues on an informal basis, rather than a prescribed page for OP's.

- The Headmaster briefly advised that the College Intranet was working extremely well and the website is to be made available to Parents in the future.
- The Chairman gave thanks to LCS, Lindsey and Robin for all their help with the website.

Magazine sub-committee report

- The Pangbournian magazine has been extremely well received and considered a great success. Like any publication there are a few tweaks that can be made.
- It was mailed to 2,700 OP's, an increase of 1,000+ to the previous subscribers to the OP magazine. A pre-paid reply card allowed for recipients to give valuable feedback and comments regarding the magazine; the few dissenters to the publication came from mainly older Australian OP's.
- With regard to Obituariess, for those who said they didn't have access to the OP website, they will be printed (from the website) and a hard copy sent. They should be downloadable in the future.
- The Headmaster suggested he could visit OP's in Australia to prevent. It was agreed to review the numbers and geographical distribution of this important group of OP's.
- No advertising income was sought or received for the publication, so the cost to the society's budget will be greater than in the past.
- The Chairman gave thanks to Robin for his editorial role in the Pangbournian and presented him with a bottle of malt whiskey. Robin re-iterated that it was the last publication he will supervise;
- It was suggested and agreed to approach Barney Spender (OP 76-81) to edit the magazine in future. He is extremely competent and has been an International Sport Journalist.
- Subsequent to the meeting Barney has agreed to be Editor for the magazine.

Any other business

- The Headmaster advised Robin Knight that he had asked girls at the College if they wanted an OP tie-belt and the majority of girls had a strong preference to wear the College blazer.
- It was suggested we ask Lindsey Hughes to think of ways we could get the female leavers from the College involved in the OP society, as to date there had been little support.
- In the last committee meeting it was proposed that Robin Broadhurst could visit the University's where OP's were studying in a liaison role. The Chairman suggested we add money to the budget (£1,000) for this exercise.
- Keith Evans will be laying an OP memorial wreath in memory of HMS Hood & HMS Neptune.
- Although there is no advertising on the website, it was suggested that we could advise the Naval Club in Mayfair is looking for members and add a Reciprocal site link to OP website.

**Next OP Society Committee meeting:
8th June 2010**