

Minutes of the OP Committee Meeting at the Naval Club
Tuesday 8th June 2010

Present: R. Knight (President), M. Dumas (Chairman), R. Shuttleworth (Hon. Sec.), I. Williams, K. Evans, N. Kilgour, S. Davis, A. Smith, A. Clifford, T. Garnier (Headmaster),

Apologies: L. Stephens (Hon. Vice-President), M. Beale (vice-President), P. Smitham, C. Parry, W. Shuttleworth, C. Reed, T. Duhalde (Hon. Treasurer), A. Fenwick-Wilson, A. Adams, Paul Lawrence.

A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for the recent deaths of Trevor Turner and Simon Harvey; and also for the recent tragedy in Kenya where Anthony Fenwick-Wilson's daughter-in-Law (Polly Renton) and his granddaughter were killed in a road accident.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 23rd February 2010

The Minutes were approved.

Matters Arising

Discussed later.

Chairman's Report

Sadly **Trevor Turner ('39-'43)** died in May. He was a wonderful OP and great supporter of the OP Society. I am delighted that Robin Knight and many other OPs were present at his funeral. There is an excellent obituary on our website.

Barney Spender has agreed to become the Editor of the OP magazine. We had hoped to meet up in May but he had to cancel due to work commitments. I hope that he can meet Robin Knight in the coming weeks. Robin requested and it was approved that he should go to Paris as Barney is based there and seldom in UK.

Australia

Thanks to Lionel Stephens and Lindsey Hughes we gathered data on Australia. This has been given to the Headmaster.

OP Budget

£19,048 for 2010-11 will be submitted to the Governors after the PA meeting.

Simon Harvey's funeral.

Richard Shuttleworth, Ian Williams and I represented the OP Committee.

Conway/Worcester

I met David Precious of Old Worcester's and spoke to Tom Mason of the Old Conway's. David then came as our guest to the OP dinner.

OP Dinner

Deemed a great success thanks to the College and Lindsey's input. **Niall Kilgour ('63-'68)** was an entertaining Guest of Honour. It was good to see many younger OPs present.

Campaign

Tim Lee was upset about the Campaign letter to all OPs. He says it suggested a gift of £2,500 as the average given so far by OPs. I should have received a letter – one had been requested.

Robin Arnott (1940's rep)

Details are wrong on the web site. Should be rj.arnott@hotmail.co.uk and tel: 01785 604641. I have just persuaded **Michael Penney** to co-manage the 1940's era. I hope you have his contact details; if not please ask.

Richard Shuttleworth will sadly be standing down as Hon Sec of the OPs at the AGM.

The Pangbourne Association

Meeting in June has been cancelled and I believe the idea is to have 2 rather than 3 meetings annually.

AROPS

I attended an AROPS meeting in Cheltenham. It was very interesting and many of the leading private schools were present. (See the separate report supplied)

Ties

William Skinner will ensure 'Dege and Skinner' will have sufficient ties available in the future. Do we want to make a profit or is it more hassle than it is worth? LCS is keen that we use the old suppliers who are

cheaper. It was decided to purchase from Dege and Skinner as their ties are high quality but to see if negotiations could lower the price.

Hon. Vice-President's Report

Deaths:

TW Turner ('39-'43) Unique in his devotion to the OP Society. First made Chairman In 1956.

S Harvey ('52-'55) Committee. Another devoted OP.

WF Nott ('22-'25) At 101, the oldest OP. (Uncle of former Defence Secretary Sir John Nott). When he was 100, I asked the OP committee to sign his birthday card, which he was clearly pleased to receive. He also acknowledged the card I sent for 101 and was making preparations to celebrate 102. Unbelievably active (see 2007 magazine for his account of his return to Assam/ Burma when aged 96) **Mike Holmes ('42-'45)** represented us at the funeral.

JJ Coulter ('48-'53) RM, Gallaghers and finally a Lloyds broker. Committee member in 1970s.

PG Wisdom ('50-'54) MN, Silvertown Shipping Services. Informed by his cousin **Michael Langran ('43-'47)**.
(all obituaries are on the website)

In last few days, **Lt-Cdr Rev EV Inglesby ('29-'42)**. Father of **David Inglesby ('67-'71)** whom I have contacted for an obituary. **Eric** was an ordained priest in the Greek Orthodox and attended the Devon reunion in 2005 by driving all the way from Glastonbury to Brixham (and back) when aged 90. Another active OP.

Awards

I Have heard from **William Shuttleworth** that **Lt-Col 'Gus' Fair DSO ('81-'88)** has been awarded a second DSO. A rare achievement. Gus was Chief of the College and is to be Guest of Honour on Founders' Day.

Oldest OP

Three of the oldest OPs have all died recently

Hon. Secretary's Report

Captain Chris Williams OBE RN ('47-'51) had enquired about the Hall of Fame and Ice Sailing in which he has successfully been involved for many years.

The Headmaster was given some correspondence on this matter.

Headmaster's Report

This term it was not snow but volcanic ash which caused the start of term to be disrupted!

One fifth of the academic staff – twelve in all, including three members of the Senior Management Team, three heads of department, a housemistress and five key games staff – were stranded overseas for the first week, along with about 40 pupils, which generated a healthy 'Blitz spirit' among the remainder. Thankfully, all were back by the start of Week Two and the term has progressed fairly smoothly since then.

Academically, it is the term in which most of the public examinations take place, and as I write these are very much underway. With competition for university places being higher than ever due to the recession, the grades matter and, reassuringly, most of the pupils affected show signs of realising it. More development is needed but the signs are good.

On the sporting front, there have been a number of grounds for encouragement.

Cricket

The 1st XI cricketers have performed well, winning matches against Bearwood, Cokethorpe and, in 20/20 format, against Bradfield, with matches drawn against Reading Boys and Windsor Boys Schools.

The U15A side have also made an excellent start to the season.

Rowing

Although we are feeling the lack of a 1st VIII, the Boat Club won five medals in ten events at the National Schools Regatta, including a bronze medal for the senior girls' four, our first ever girls medal.

The J16 VIII won gold in their event and a bronze in a pair the following day, and the J14 squad came home with a bronze in the double scull and silver in the coxed quads event – all bode well for the future of the club.

Riding

The other obvious highlight was in riding, when at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, competing for the first time, the Pangbourne team finished 3rd out of 39 teams from the Services, with one rider being presented a bridle by HM The Queen for being the best U25 rider – an outstanding result.

Music & IT Buildings

New tender has delayed the start, but should be cheaper. More money still needed.

Adventure Training & 'Taking Responsibility'

The summer term allows a considerable amount of adventurous training to take place. Before half term, for the 18th year running, the 3rd Form spent a week at Llangorse, including their practice Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition. In the next few weeks, they and the Silver and Gold teams will complete their assessed expeditions.

Also the Lower Sixth will undergo the Taking Responsibility course, a three day course designed to prepare them for leadership both in their final year and beyond Pangbourne.

Founders' Day Saturday 3 July

The Guest of Honour will be Lieutenant Colonel Angus Fair DSO, a former Chief Cadet Captain of College. All OPs will be most welcome.

Pangbourne Association Report

Ian Williams produced a report on a useful meeting at Lancing College.

The new OP Society Constitution is in hand.

Social Sub-Committee Report

100 attended the OP dinner, which is an excellent turnout for a dinner at the College. 111 were expected but the volcanic ash from Iceland had closed the airports and consequently those flying in could not join us. **Mr Brown (OP left '55)** from Melbourne got stuck in Singapore.

Niall Kilgour was the Guest of Honour and gave a good speech reflecting on his days at the College and giving a few thoughts on the things he believes matters in life.

There was one complaint about the food that was passed to the catering manager on the evening.

The OO's were well represented which was excellent.

There were a few who had never returned to the College previously.

London 2011 dinner.

I have enquired about using **HQS Wellington**. OP **Capt Stephen Taylor, RN** runs this. There is a room charge that needs waiving but costs are similar to The Hurlingham in 2009 at £60 per head. We actually charged £65 to cover our extra costs and subsidise younger members. Numbers 120 max.

OP Army drinks party

Willie Shuttleworth is hosting this at the Turf on 21st June.

Founders Day

Saturday 3rd July all OPs will be welcome but particularly those from the 80's and 90's.

OP Day.

On **Saturday 6th November** the College will play The Oratory at home. **It is hoped that as many OPs as possible will attend this important match in the School calendar.**

The OP Society will have its **AGM** in the morning. Thereafter OPs and their families could meet up for some light refreshment in the village before returning to support the 1st XV. The College will kindly provide tea after the match.

Sports Report (from Charlie Parry)

Tennis

Whilst I liaised with Mart Hart at the College, it seemed impossible for him to come back to me with a date to play a tennis match against the OP. We therefore did not have a match in May nor is one planned for this term. I will try again next year.

Cricket

I spoke with Lindsey at the OP Dinner. It was very much her intention to organise an OP team to play against the College on Founders day. She mentioned that she had all the contact details, for past players, so was confident that she could put together an OP team. I will chase her up to see how she is getting on. Since then Alex Smith confirms that a team will be produced to play the College and it will consist of OPs who toured Barbados ten years ago. Parents who went on the trip have been invited and it is hoped to have a decent turn out to make it a good reunion.

Golf

There was no OP entry into the Grafton Morrish Competition this year due to a lack of funds. The OP Golf day, planned for the 22nd June, is well subscribed and we currently have 27 players. I hope we can reach 30 in the next few weeks. I will see if Brian Cunningham wants to come with a pupil or two.

Sailing

Regret nothing to report.

Rugby & Hockey

Hope to produce teams for November

Website & Magazine Sub-Committee Report

Little to report on the Website other than posting content can be problematical. Lindsey and Robin have the specifics. Robin said it is now very user friendly and easy to post content

OP Magazine

Barney Spender is in place as the next Editor. Mark, Robin and Steve Davis are hoping to meet with him when he next comes to London (see Chairman's Report above re: Paris).

Hon.Treasurer's Report

As ever, very little activity in the bank account, given that all goes through the college. Had a couple of small invoices from Pip re legal fees, and the college have paid these. There was also an IT invoice and we paid Lionel for his expenses. I will ask the college to send me an up-to-date list of all invoices paid on our behalf in case any have by-passed me. Balance in the bank account is approx £10,500. We also sold our investments through Bank of Scotland and the money should be paid into the bank account shortly. At the moment I do not know what the total amount we will receive is. If I get this information before next week I will let you know.

(It is now known to be about £40000 – Hon.Sec).

Any Other Business:

Honorary OPs

John Brook was elected. He is Head of Maths and due to retire at the end of term. He joined the staff in 1986 and so has served the College for 24 years. A quiet, unassuming man, he deserves to be elected an Hon. OP. His wife was Librarian in the early 90s.

Paul Hills will be invited to become an Honorary OP

OP Yacht Club

Ian Williams commented on the possibility of an OP Yacht Club

His own personal interest lies in yacht not dinghy sailing so we may need a dinghy sailor to take on the latter.

Now on the website. Strategy agreed with Lindsey:

- Identify all OPs who own a yacht (to create a meaningful base for future initiatives). Timescale - could take a couple of years.
- Identify a suitable OP to serve as first Commodore
- Identify suitable activities to both promote the name of Pangbourne College and provide appropriate support to The College
- In the first instance we could launch a Pangbourne YC using RYA Rules so OPs could fly the OP burgee (Devitt & Moore flag). John Fisher, apparently, has a plentiful supply, though he never responds to anything. Nigel Hollebhone has a large OP 'Battle' Flag

Pangbourne/South Africa Rally

Has arrived in Cape Town and raised some money for the Appeal.

Neptune Association

Keith Evans will be attending a Service at the National Memorial Arboretum where a rededication Service for the Neptune & Hood Memorials will be held.

Lt Col Angus (Gus) Fair DSO* (OP '81-'88)

William Shuttleworth informed us that:

The second award was for outstanding leadership in Afghanistan whilst commanding the Light Dragoons, the new regiment formed in 1992 from the 13th/18th Royal Hussars (Queen Mary's Own) and 15th/19th The King's Royal Hussars. 10 OPs have served in the 13/18H or LD (Ledger S, Scott-Masson x2, Scott-Bell (jr), Bindloss x2, Roberts, Jelf, Young and me!)

Gus was commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards and came to LD to command. As far as I know he has already done a tour with the Special Forces. I have only met him once; but what an impressive man he is. Clearly the Army thinks so too. I will try and obtain a biography from Home Headquarters. The London Gazette had this notice:

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London SW1

19th March 2010

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve a Bar and the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Afghanistan during the period 1st April 2009 to 30th September 2009:

Bar to the DSO

ARMY

**Lieutenant Colonel Angus George Costeker FAIR, DSO,
The Light Dragoons, 533551.**

Committee Meetings in 2010

Wednesday 8th September