

THE SOCIETY OF OLD BRENTWOODS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in Old Big School at the School on Saturday 24th September 2005

1. Present

The President and thirty six members as per attendance register.

2. Proxies

Proxies in favour of the Chairman were given by J McDonald, J Raven and R Newns.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from S D Boon, A R C Smith, P Young, J Ryley, K H Boon, J MacDonald, J Raven, R Newns, J Stratford, G Thomas, M Snyder, and S White.

4. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the School on Saturday 11th September 2004 were read by the Hon. Secretary and signed by the President, Tim Pailthorpe.

5. Adoption of the Hon. Secretary's Report

The Meeting agreed unanimously to adopt the Hon. Secretary's report as published in the latest issue of the Chronicle. The President thanked Ian West for the correspondence and reports he had dealt with throughout the year on behalf of the Society which followed many years of similar service on the General Committee.

6. Adoption of the Hon. Treasurer's Report

The President referred to the Hon. Treasurer's report and accounts for the year to 30th April 2005 published in the latest edition of the Chronicle. The Hon Treasurer, Stuart Mathieson confirmed that the accounts had been audited. There were no questions raised concerning the report or accounts which were unanimously adopted. The President thanked Stuart Mathieson for his work and said that the Society and its affiliated clubs were indebted to him for his stewardship over the past 20 years.

7. The Chronicle

Tim Pailthorpe thanked the editorial committee for the production of the Chronicle during the past year. It was a vital means of contact between Old Brentwoods.

David Tee said that Godfrey Thomas has now produced 17 issues of the Chronicle during the past 8 years. They had all been of good quality but the last two were most exceptional. Godfrey Thomas was happy to continue but urged that the Society find a new editor as soon as possible. It would be preferable if Godfrey Thomas were not actually editing the Chronicle by the time of next year's Annual General Meeting.

The Chronicle also proved to be a successful link between members of the Society and the School. The last two issues particularly contained articles which reflected those links and the development of the School between 1904 and 2005 in the latest edition was particularly well received.

He said that the next issue would be published in February 2006 and therefore copy should be in before Christmas. He also thanked the Headmaster for allowing members of the editorial committee to attend the School with a view to preparing articles for the magazine. He also expressed particular thanks to Richard Love and Jennifer Head for their courtesy and assistance. The President echoed David Tee's comments.

8 Election of Officers

The Hon. Secretary said that the General Committee in accordance with Rule 9 of the Society's Rules, were unanimously of the opinion that Stuart Mathieson should be President of the Society for the coming year. Tim Pailthorpe introduced Stuart Mathieson to the meeting. He said that Stuart had served the Society both on and off the field for well over 30 years. He started with the advantage of a South Town background and an economic V1th education. He wished Stuart well for the coming year and presented with the President's Cup and badge of office.

Stuart Mathieson thanked Tim Pailthorpe for the presentation and his kind words. He also thanked Tim for the extremely good year as President which Tim had enjoyed. He also thanked Tim's Wife for supporting Tim Mike Bradford for writing a profile of him in the Chronicle.

As his theme for his year as President he had mischievously thought that he outlaw anyone who was using a noun as a verb. On reflection, he preferred to carry on the aims of other Presidents in previous years namely to encourage membership of the Society and links with the School. He was particularly mindful of the need to encourage those Old Brentwoods whose membership lapsed after the initial subscription period of 5 years had expired. He would also like to ensure that the membership of the Society reflected the make-up of the School so that there would be equal numbers of male and female Old Brentwoods. He recognised that this was a difficult problem to crack but found it to be a worthwhile aim.

Ian West, Stuart Mathieson, Tim Harris, Philip Loader and David Masterson were all re-elected to their respective posts as Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Hon Asst Treasurer, Hon Social Secretary and Hon Auditor. Ian Pitwood was elected as Hon Registrar. No elections in respect of the posts of Hon Asst Secretary, Hon Asst Registrar and Hon

Editor. A vote of thanks was extended to Simon White for his work on the Old Brentwood Archives.

Tim Harris and Stuart Mathieson were re-elected to the Bar Committee.

Simon Boon, James Brown, Tim Faiers, Mark Goodinge, Stephen Lines, Andrew Williams, Michael Roast and Stephen Gorrod were elected as members of the General Committee.

It was unanimously agreed that the existing Vice President should be re-elected with the addition of Tim Pailthorpe to their number.

9. Report from the Headmaster

The Headmaster Ian Davies thanked Tim Pailthorpe for his year as President which had added to the continuity of community between the Society and the School. The School had made a big effort to ensure that Old Brentwoods Day included more events and he thanked Jim Brown and David Taylor for their efforts in re-formulating the day. He was also pleased to see so many attending the Annual General Meeting. Old Brentwood links were important to the School. A tangible demonstration of this had been the presence of 70 Old Brentwoods at the Careers Convention and several Old Brentwoods had been present at the University Advice Day. The School was also pleased to be able to host the Old Brentwoods 1st XI and was sad that the team had lost to Eton in the final of the Arthur Dunn Cup. He hoped to strengthen the links between the Society and the School still further with the re-introduction of the Oxford and Cambridge Dinners and a 40 years On Dinner.

Examination results at the School had been exceptional. There was a 92% pass rate at "A" level with grades A to C. This statistic was particularly important as these grades largely determined whether or not a pupil would obtain a place at University. There were now 330 pupils in the 6th Form. He felt that Government statistics on contribution of independent schools to University places were misleading. Over 40% of entrants to University came from independent schools.

A 52% pass rate at A* or A grades at GCSE was achieved. This was a record. High GCSE grades were important as they provided a foundation for success at "A" level.

There was, however, more to school than exams. In awarding places Universities looked for other distinguishing qualities. This was why the School also spent time on such matters as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the CCF. The School's CCF was the largest optional CCF in the country. Jasmine Singh received the award as outstanding cadet whilst Josh Chandler had won an RAF flying school scholarship.

On the Sports Field high honours were achieved by individuals and teams in cricket, netball, football and fencing at national as well as county level. This year the fencing team not only won the Public Schools Cup but also won the Sabre Class in the National Adult Competition.

Music and drama is also to the fore. The Big Band have performed several concerts for charity. The School went on a music tour in Rome and Sienna culminating in a concert in Sienna at the Cathedral with the choir singing at Mass the following day.

The School has put on a splendid performance of the Trojan Wars and will be staging Les Miserables during the first week in December. The School put a lot of effort into these other activities to help develop qualities which they will need in life including people skills, leadership and teamwork.

Ian Davies said that he was pleased to be Headmaster of the School and to lead it into a bright future.

Stuart Mathieson thanked the Headmaster for his report.

10. Any Other Business

David Tee requested that precise information should be passed to the Society when any deaths of members were reported. There had been some embarrassing incidents in the past where a member was reported dead when in fact he was alive. He also appealed for all members to check their standing orders to ensure that they were paying the correct subscription.

Jim Brown gave details of the further activities being offered during the afternoon as part of Old Brentwoods Day following lunch at Roden House.

There being no further business Stuart Mathieson thanked the School for the use of their facilities and closed the meeting.