

THE SOCIETY OF OLD BRENTWOODS
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in Old Big School at the School on Saturday 23rd September 2006

1. Present

The President and fifty two members as per attendance register.

2. Proxies

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

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Raven, R Newns, M Snyder, M Pepper, S Lines, J Norris, D Oldham and R Foulkes.

4. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the School on Saturday 24th September 2005 were read by the Hon. Secretary and signed by the President, Stuart Mathieson.

5. Adoption of the Hon. Secretary's Report

The President referred to the Hon. Secretary's report published in the latest issue of the Chronicle which the meeting unanimously agreed to adopt. The President thanked Ian West for his work throughout the year

6. Adoption of the Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Hon. Secretary Ian West referred to the Hon. Treasurer's report and accounts for the year to 30 April 2006 as published in the latest edition of the Chronicle. The Hon Treasurer and President, Stuart Mathieson confirmed that the accounts had been audited. No questions raised concerning the report or accounts which were unanimously adopted. On behalf of the Society the Hon. Secretary thanked Stuart Mathieson for his work throughout the year.

7. The Chronicle

Stuart Mathieson thanked the Editorial Committee for the production of the Chronicle during the past year. In particular he thanked Martin Rowland who edited the last two issues. Stuart commented that a lot of good work had gone into both issues and wished Martin continued success.

Martin Rowland responded that on Old Brentwoods' Day the year before it had been suggested to him that he might become involved in editing the Chronicle. He agreed to do so and had since discovered that Godfrey Thomas' estimate that each issue would take 3 full working days of the editor's time was an underestimation. He had made some changes to previous issues by introducing tighter headlines but would continue to use the blue pages as a business section. He had featured articles focussing on Old

Brentwoods' activities around the globe. In the latest issue he had highlighted the music produced at the School and in future issues he intended to cover other activities at the school as he felt this would be of interest to the membership. He was proposing articles concerning the CCF, Community Service Group and the Careers Service. He also wanted to introduce more colour photographs. He thanked Godfrey Thomas, David Tee and Ian Waite for their support throughout the year. They had all done a great deal to meet his targets.

David Tee said that he was delighted with what Martin had done during the year. As part of the team, Ian Pitwood had looked carefully at the list of subscribers to the Chronicle and excluded those who had not paid a sufficient subscription. As a result the number of copies dispatched had been reduced from 3300 to 2500. The latest issue was produced on budget despite extra colour printing and the new postal rates had reduced production costs by 12.5%.

John Stratford queried whether more could be made of advertising in the Chronicle to offset costs. David Tee said that this was an area on which the subcommittee need to improve.

The President said that Ian Pitwood had done an extremely good job as registrar this year. As well as auditing the Chronicle's subscription list he had chased other members to amend their standing orders which had resulted in a further £2000 in subscriptions.

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 Sir Rodger Bell should be President of the Society for the coming year. Stuart Mathieson said that it had been a huge honour to be elected as President. There had been some marvelous moments including the opening of the rugby club stand with the ensuing religious debate over its function. The Burns Night, his own character assassination at the annual dinner (for which he could only blame himself having invited Graham Lyon to speak) and most recently the Cocktail Party which had been great fun. He had also enjoyed functions at the School, notably Speech Day, and had found the School's production of Les Miserables fantastic. He had attended three governor's meetings: over the years he had noted that previous Presidents had commented on how interesting the governors' meetings were. They did give a fantastic insight into the School and its future plans. He was particularly impressed at the very detailed interest which was taken in each pupil.

He was delighted to handover to Sir Roger Bell who had been a pupil at the School from 1951 to 1958. He had been Head of School in 1957 when the Queen has visited to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the school. He had attended Brazenose College, Oxford and became a High Court Judge in 1993. He had been an outstanding athlete having obtained a blue at Oxford for both athletics and cross-country. Stuart then presented Sir Roger with the President's Cup and Badge of office.

Sir Roger said that it was a honour to be elected and thanked Stuart Mathieson for his year in office. Stuart had been closely involved with the Society since leaving the School and a member of the General Committee for over a quarter of a century. He was aware that the Old Brentwoods stayed in close contact with the School and felt that the School could benefit from the wisdom and experience of past pupils to assist in the progress of current pupils.

The election of officers continued with Ian West, Stuart Mathieson, Ian Pitwood, Philip

Loader and David Masterson reelected to the post of Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon Registrar, Social Secretary and Hon Auditor. Stephen Gorrod was elected as Hon. Assistant Treasurer and Martin Rowland elected as Hon. Editor. Stephen Gorrod and Stuart Mathieson were elected as members of the Bar Committee. The posts of Hon. Assistant Secretary and Hon Registrar were left open.

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

It was unanimously agreed that the existing Vice Presidents should be re-elected enbloc in addition of Stuart Mathieson to their number.

It was noted that Tim Harris had retired as Hon Assistant Registrar after some 16 years in the post and a vote of thanks was extended to him for his work on the General Committee.

9. Report from the Headmaster

The Headmaster Ian Davies thanked Stuart Mathieson for hosting the President's Cocktail Party the previous evening. It was well attended by new members of the teaching staff and was a good opportunity to introduce them to the Old Brentwoods.

It had been an exceptional year for the School marred only by the death of Nick Austin's wife and children in a car accident in Menorca. On the academic side A Grades at A Level were 39% with A and B grades for AS Level up by 11% from the previous year. At GCSE Level the pass rate for A* and A grades was 55% out of total number of 177 candidates. The Headmaster's research revealed that other local schools with high percentage pass rates such as King Edwards in Chelmsford and Chelmsford County High did not field so many candidates. This had to be taken into account when assessing league tables which could otherwise appear misleading.

The CCF was going from strength to strength and had been inspected by Colonel Mike Beard. 40 pupils had completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme with 20 of them achieving gold awards. The school had raised some £50,000 for charity both through the community service group and through concerts given by the Big Band. This reflected well on the pupils.

The production of Les Miserables had received high praise: the writer of the score had seen the show and had been particularly complementary. This year the School would stage West Side Story.

In sport had retained the Public School Fencing Cup and had done well in the National Sabre Competition. Chris Prowting played cricket for the England under18 team and had broken Chris Lee's 1975 record by two runs in scoring 819 runs in 17 school matches. The School's under 15 team played a total of 30 cricket matches: the first 11 reached the final of the National 20:20 Cup losing to Millfield. Abigail Ryton, Adam Kain and Will Roder all achieved high status in their respective sports of netball, rugby and soccer.

2007 marks the 450th Anniversary of the founding of the School. A service will be held at St Paul's Cathedral in March and the School will be writing to Old Brentwood about this. The Lord Mayor of London will be hosting a dinner at the Mansion House later in the year. David Starkey will be giving a lecture at the School. There was also the possibility of a Royal visit but this could not yet be finalised as the Queen's diary for the relevant period was not yet open.

The Headmaster had written to local primary schools to inform them of the School's bursary fund with a view to giving wider access to Brentwood School. Significant building projects were proposed including replacing the pavilion on the Heseltine's destroyed by a fire to provide new changing rooms and the construction of a new sixth form building with a 400 seat auditorium which could be ready by September 2009.

The Headmaster which to thank members of his senior team, David Taylor, Nigel Carr, Ian Bruton and James Brown for their work throughout the year and in maintaining links with the Society. He was pleased to see more Old Brentwoods attending the Careers Convention and the University Advice Day.

He had enjoyed working with Stuart Mathieson in his presidential year and look forward to working with Sir Rodger Bell. He was pleased to invite all Old Brentwoods to Roden House for lunch after the meeting.

Sir Rodger Bell thanked the Headmaster for his report and for his positive and enthusiastic working with the Society.

10. Any Other Business

1. There was a proposal for republication of the list of members first printed in 1994. Ian Pitwood explained that the original list contained some 4,100 names and that a new list would be 50% greater. A production run of 2,500 copies would cost £2,445 and a run of 5000, £4,140. Preparing the copy would be relatively straightforward but would nevertheless involve a lot of work. Simon Boon said that the proposal be discussed by the General Committee.
2. John Stratford enquired whether the information on the School's database could be used to update the Society's database. Ian Pitwood said that the data could not be incorporated electronically and other methods of transferring the information would involve a good deal of work.
3. A vote of thanks was extended to Simon Boon for his work as Chairman of the General Committee throughout the year.
4. Simon Boon informed the meeting that the presidential sub-committee had proposed Tim Fairs as President elect.

There being no further business the President Roger Bell thanked the Headmaster for his use of the School's facilities and closed the meeting.