

THE SOCIETY OF OLD BRENTWOODS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

in Old Big School at the School on Saturday 22nd September 2007

1. Present

The President and 53 three members as per the attendance book attended the meeting.

2. Proxies

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

3. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from J Raven, R Newns, J Smith and R Foulkes.

4. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting at the School on Saturday 23rd September 2006 were read by the Hon. Secretary, Ian West and signed by the President, Sir Rodger Bell.

The Hon. Secretary confirmed that the item under Any Other Business concerning the printing of a new membership list had been discussed by the General Committee who decided not to proceed with its publication.

5. Adoption of the Hon. Secretary's Report

The President referred to the Hon. Secretary's report published in the August 2007 issue of the Chronicle which the meeting unanimously adopted. The President thanked Ian West for his hard work throughout the year. The Hon. Secretary commented that the work was not that hard and that he was looking for a successor.

6. Adoption of the Hon. Treasurer's Report

The President referred to the Hon. Treasurer's report and accounts for the year to 30 April 2007 as published in the August 2007 Chronicle. The Hon Treasurer, Stuart Mathieson confirmed that the accounts had been audited. No questions were raised on the report or the accounts which were unanimously adopted. The President thanked Stuart Mathieson for his work.

7. The Chronicle

The President thanked the Hon. Editor, Martin Rowland, for the production of the Chronicle during the past year. The latest issue was a good read, containing useful information.

Martin Rowland said the Chronicle was now about the right size at 48 pages with 12 business pages making 64 sides. Expanding the Chronicle would increase the budget: this would mean more advertisements would be required. Wynn Davies was now in charge of advertisements.

As the cost of colour printing had become cheaper, colour pages had been increased to 24 and it was likely that this limit would be maintained: the middle section of the Chronicle was devoted to features which benefited from colour. Future articles should include the Sixth Form Centre as well as reporting further events of the School's 450th anniversary celebrations and "1957 remembered".

He would like to thank Ian Pitwood for providing up to date addresses, Colin Finch for obituaries, David Tee for his School House reports, Kim Spooner and Nichola Larkin from the School for their many photos, Tim Faiers for producing the odd (sometimes very odd!) article about the Lodge and the printer, Ian Waite, for putting up with the Editor's idiosyncrasies.

The President thanked Ian Pitwood for his work as Hon. Registrar. Ian said that he was looking for an assistant. As the membership list was now in better order, the work would not be onerous.

8 Election of Officers

The Hon. Secretary said the General Committee, in accordance with Rule 9 of the Society's Rules, was unanimous that Tim Faiers should be the next President of the Society of Old Brentwoods. Rodger Bell introduced Tim as a man already well known in the running of the Society over the past 40 years. Tim was still very actively involved in the administration of the Rugby and 200 Clubs, the Annual Dinner and on the General Committee.

Rodger said he had an enjoyable year as President, the highlights being the Service for the School at St Paul's Cathedral, the Annual Dinner, the 1957 Dinner and the Cocktail Party. He had enjoyed the Burns Night, "a jolly and cultural occasion." He had joined Geoff Holland in Bournemouth and John Raven for the Wessex Old Brentwoods lunches. He had found new friends and reacquainted himself with old ones from 50 years ago. He had had little to do with the School since the 1960s and was conscious that in succeeding Stuart Mathieson as President, he had had a hard act to follow. He was indebted to Old Brentwoods for their support and in particular to Colin Finch and members of the General Committee. He was pleased that the Mentoring Scheme had started at the School and hoped for a good response from Old Brentwoods He himself would remain involved with the scheme.

Rodger said he had moved house recently and in going through his belongings he had found an old Latin dictionary. It bore the names of P P Pratt and then R Bell as custodians and he was now pleased to return it, if belatedly, to Ian Davies, the Headmaster. Ian immediately announced an amnesty for one week for others to return borrowed property to the School.

Rodger then handed the President's Cup and Badge to Tim Faiers.

Tim said he had been somewhat nervous when Simon Boon conveyed to him the General Committee's invitation to become President. He had always regarded himself as an anti-establishment figure. Acceptance was perhaps a sign of compliance but he was honoured to accept for himself and the Rugby Club. He would not advance any particular project to mark his presidency but, in his role as archivist, would appreciate more items to archive (preferably not stolen property). He urged all members to consider the future of Ashwells Road. Whilst he had seen the Rugby Club grow, cricket and football had tailed off. He would like to see more younger members running the Society.

The election of officers continued with Ian West, Stuart Mathieson, Stephen Gorrod, Martin Rowland, Ian Pitwood, Philip Loader and David Masterson re-elected to the posts of Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Assistant Treasurer, Hon. Editor, Hon Registrar, Social Secretary and Hon Auditor. Stephen Lines was elected as Hon. Assistant Secretary. Stephen Gorrod and Stuart Mathieson were elected as members of the Bar Committee. The post of Hon. Assistant Registrar was left open.

It was noted that Jim Brown had retired from the General Committee after some 21 years continuous service and the President thanked him for his work.

David Taylor, David Tee, Emma Jones, Mark Goodinge, Simon Boon, 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 en bloc with the addition of Sir Rodger Bell.

Tim Faiers said that the General Committee had invited David Tee to be President elect.

9. Report from the Headmaster

The Headmaster thanked Rodger Bell for his work throughout the year and looked forward to working with Tim Faiers.

The Mentoring Scheme was an exciting prospect and would grow.

The 450th Anniversary celebrations had been marked by several events with more to come later in the year. The service at St Paul's Cathedral had been impressive and a DVD was available. In November there would be a concert at

the Brentwood Centre at which the School's musicians and singers would be well represented.

He was very proud of the pupils' achievements in public examinations. At A level there had been a 75% pass rate at A and B levels with 44% achieving A grades. At GCSE over 50% of grades were either A* or A . This indicated the hard work put in by pupils and teachers.

Individuals and School teams had also achieved distinctions in cricket, golf and gymnastics as well as playing for the National Youth Orchestra.

Twenty nine pupils had started the International Baccalaureate course with some coming from overseas. Enthusiastic and able teaching staff had been recruited. This would have a positive impact on A level teaching.

The School wished to increase bursaries beyond the eight fully funded places available. Old Brentwoods could help by giving funds: one Old Brentwood recently donated £300,000 which would pay for one full place.

The building programme continued. There would be a 200-person changing room on the Heseltines. It was hoped to develop land behind Courage Hall. Proposals for a new classroom block had been delayed in the planning process but might be completed by 2010. The School was grateful for the efforts of Mike Pepper and Colin Finch in relation to the building programme as well as the Bursar's Office.

The Headmaster thanked his senior team, including his deputies Nigel Carr and Simon Wheal, Jim Brown and Second Master David Taylor.

Tim Faiers thanked the Headmaster for his report.

10. Any Other Business

1. David Tee confirmed that the previous user of Rodger Bell's Latin dictionary, Peter Pratt, was an honest man.
2. The President said that the next General Committee meeting would be held on 27 September and the Annual Dinner at the School on Friday 14 March 2008.

There being no further business, President Tim Faiers thanked the Headmaster for use of the school's facilities and closed the meeting.

Ian West