



## OLD BANCROFTIANS' ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At 6.15pm on Monday 25 March 2019  
At Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London.

#### ***1. Apologies for absence***

Peter Brazier; Neil Macfarlane; Geoff Crome; Rodney Matthews; Thomas Auber; Malcolm Fleet; Ian Saunders; Siggy Mensah; Gerry Zierler; George Moon; Brian Ranson; Norman Hammond; Dick Shervington; Anthony Le Cras; Jean Giles; Davis Giles; Rachel Pau; David Riddle

#### ***2. Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 8th March 2018 and matters arising***

The Minutes were accepted unanimously, bar the spelling of David Riddle's name in items 2 and 3

#### ***3. Treasurer's Report - Accounts for 2018 (Michael Watts, Treasurer)***

My thanks go to David Riddle and Stewart Fairhead for agreeing to be the independent examiners once again.

- Interest.

As with many associations the interest rate is minimal, but this will increase marginally in the current year.

- Grants.

The OBA has supported the OB Golf Society, where they got into the Grafton Morrish finals, the football club with some new nets and some other general donations.

Within Miscellaneous expenditure were the cost of the plaque for Dr Scott and also a memorial for Charles Newman VC.

The accounts are on the website and were accepted. A copy is included with these minutes.

#### ***4. President's Report (Ed Sautter)***

It has been a full year, and a very enjoyable one. I have endeavoured to report on my activities on my President's blog and also on the OBA Facebook page.

Two fun events at the School started the presidential year, the 5 & 10 year Reunion and the U6 Leavers' Evening, which now takes place during the U6 year rather than after it. Both were great opportunities to meet younger OBs and OBs in waiting.

The Old Brentwood's Dinner was great fun with excellent hospitality and included the rather surreal experience of my being clapped into their dining hall in the company of Sir Trevor Brooking. Sadly, my opposite number couldn't make it to our dinner but I have every impression that it is a relationship that the Old Brentwood's value.

Visitation Day is a great showcase for the School, and a particular mention here for the Junior School prize giving, which I also know from my attendance as a school governor, and which is a lovely event.

OBs Day was bathed in summer sun. There were excellent turnouts from the Reunion groups. We were also able to acknowledge the contribution of two inspirational Heads who have sadly died – Peter Scott and Tony Duncan. I was saved from saying too much at lunchtime by the informative and expansive speech of the Headmaster.

Autumn brought very enjoyable dinners, up North and at the School. The dinner at School lacked the numbers of previous years. I didn't take it personally and it was great to have a number of friends from my year there. As you will hear, active thought is being given as to how to manage this event in the future.

The Remembrance Sunday service took place in a full Great Hall. It was a privilege to participate in such a moving event and to mark, on the centenary of the conclusion of the Great War, the sacrifice made by so many OBs.

I'd also like to mention the Autumn Business Breakfast and the City Drinks, two lively occasions with a good spread of OBs of all ages, and others, which might give a clue as to the way forward as we seek to connect with a wide community of Bancroftians and friends.

I also attended some of the meetings of the OB Educational Development Fund who will be reporting shortly. I was struck by the care and dedication with which this Committee goes about providing financial support for educational activities being undertaken by Bancroftians both at School and after they have left.

In my final week, there was a flurry of events. In addition to the AGM, I attended the CCF Biennial Review. A fun afternoon watching the cadets carry out various exercises in Epping Forest, and then parading in the Quad, all under the watchful eye of reviewing officer and OB Major Graham Goodey MBE. Congratulations to Contingent Commander Major Rob Hitching and his team for putting on a great show. And to finish, at the kind invitation of Jeremy Bromfield, representing the OBs at the Draper's Livery dinner. A splendid evening in a magnificent venue, and an appropriate place to sign off on my year.

Finally, my thanks to the Committee for their guidance and support through the year, to my friends from the vintage 1970 intake for their support and to the wonderful Susan Day for keeping me on the straight and narrow.

## **5. *Chair's Report (Amanda Campbell)***

I am pleased to report that the Association is in good heart. It continues to develop the ways it communicates with the membership in a changing world where technology is used in different ways by different generations of members and it is important to make sure that we reach as many members as we can through the e-newsletters, email communication and the web site. There will be developments in the website later this year and the introduction of a new system for communication called Bancroft's Connect. Social media continues to grow

and become a preferred forum for communication which is managed and monitored from The Foundation Office.

General and Executive Committees continue to meet throughout the year. The Executive Committee has spent time this year looking at how we can best serve the OBA community in the years to come and will report back to the General Committee and then the AGM in due course when this work is complete. We need to make sure that we find ways to engage our broad membership in ways appropriate to an alumni group that is spread across the world. My thanks to Nick Bowman, Jeremy Bromfield and Tony Barritt who have been working on the project.

We continue to be part of events that are Foundation based and in particular Business Breakfasts which not only afford opportunities for members, parents and pupils to listen to guest speakers, but also a time to engage with each other in the broader Bancroft's family context. We are grateful to OBs who support these events and in particular those who are able to offer venues or indeed to speak. There is a Breakfast planned for later in the year and members will be advised of this by email.

We continue to be a member of AROPS which is the association of alumni groups which offer advice and support for associations similar to ours.

- **Membership**

The OBA has a total membership of circa 6500, registered on the database. Obviously as with most associations, groups numbers registered is high but active members is a much smaller representation. We now actively manage one database directly through the OBA Office with approx. 4000 email addresses and updated records. Membership increases by approx. 120-140 each year. The membership is managed by Susan Day via the Foundation Office at School.

In the past, events that the OBA has run have been mainly through a dinner format but younger OBs with their busy lives seem to be meeting more on an informal basis whether 10 peers getting together for a drink after work or the occasional curry. I hope in the future the new Bancroft's Connect will allow for more communication so we know what small groups are doing in between the larger events.

As Chair I am pleased to attend many events at school alongside the President and other OBs. My thanks to the School and the Governors for their invitations and continued support of the OBA

- **OBs Day 2018**

This was an excellent day with good weather which allowed for the football, netball and cricket to take place. In the afternoon we tried a new event with crazy golf in the Quad and an ice-cream van to keep the children entertained. It also saw a memorial concert for Tony Duncan, the first Headmaster of the Prep school who had died earlier in the year and which Joe Layburn, the current Head of Prep School organised. This was well supported by past pupils and parents. Lunch was well attended with 200+ in the Hall whilst the 40 years-on group picnicked on the field.

- **Leavers Evening**

In a change to the traditional format, this evening involved parents and leavers in an informal drinks party followed by supper. This was a good way to thank parents for supporting their child's membership of the OBA and also to welcome our new members.

- **5 and 10 years-on Reunion**

Well supported by the respective year groups and lively conversation. Committee members are encouraged to support this event. Next event scheduled for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019.

- **OBA Dinner**

Dinner this year had a lower than expected attendance, but it was still a good event and a time to meet with others from across the generations.

- **Northern Dinner**

The Northern Dinner takes place at Llyndir Hall Hotel & Spa. This is a well-established event with a dedicated group of attendees and our thanks go to Graham Perch for continuing to organise this.

Lastly thanks to my fellow officers Michael Watts and Claude Lavender and the support of the General Committee and Executive Committee during the last year. I would also like to thank Steve Dodd for the work he does keeping communication links open. Finally, thanks to Ed Sauter for his year as President, it has been a very successful year and one which I hope he has enjoyed. We have enjoyed reading your blog which has given us all insight into your year. As a final point, I would like to say a special thank you to Susan Day in the OBA/Foundation office. Without her support the Chair's role would be much harder as most of the events we run are attributed to her hard work.

## **6. Elections:**

### **1. To be proposed for election as President: Steve Dodd (Julian Blake)**

### **2. To be proposed for election as officers under rule 6(b):**

**Chair - Amanda Campbell; Treasurer - Michael Watts; Secretary - Claude Lavender**

Proposed by Gemma Wicks and seconded by David Hammond. Elected unanimously.

### **3. Election to the General Committee**

#### **▪ Nominated Vice-Presidents**

Proposed by Gemma Wicks.

### **4. Election of Independent Examiners of the accounts for the coming year under rule 7.**

**Independent examiners Stewart Fairhead and David Riddle**

Proposed by Michael Watts and seconded by Kevin Campbell. Unanimously elected.

## **7. Reports from the School and Bancroft's Foundation (Head Simon Marshall)**

Busy year so far...

Foundation update and January re-engagement event

Future plans:

- Aims of Foundation and reasons – who we are targeting
- New Foundation office – Susan, Lynne and Chris
- Scholarships etc
- OB day 2019
- Business breakfasts etc...
- Bancroft's Society and embracing current and ex-parents and plans to develop and bring wider community together
- Developing the engagement platform - Graduway

Careers/entrepreneurships and innovation:

- Michelle Dean and new role
- Thanks for help with careers evening – engagement with OBs (and reasons)
- Future plans and ideas

Buildings and Masterplan:

- Portacabins
- Head's house and admin building
- Head's garden
- Other two sites – and future of Jeremy Bromfield Pavilion
- Possible development of sports facilities

Challenges:

- TPS increases and impact on school
- Increasing negative views of private schools and how to counter them

Successes:

Music:

- New piano – parents' association
- More focus on music-making and ensemble playing
- Concerts and master classes
- Using A1 and A2
- Outstanding Drapers' concert

Music/Drama:

- Christmas Peru fundraiser
- Chicago
- Taal
- Buggy Malone

#### Sport/Trips:

Peru over summer - successes

Many other trips this year – Duke of Edinburgh

This summer – swim-trek to Montenegro and girls' hockey and netball tour to Barbados

Maths Olympiads, Challenges and Hans Woyda...

#### Retirements:

John Lever – saying farewell during cricket week

#### Notable Achievements:

- Claudia Joarder L6W - was part of the team that won the England Hockey National Indoor Championships
- Max Pollard has been selected to play for the Saracens U14 Player Development Group in rugby
- The CCF RAF Section competed in the Air Squadron Trophy at RAF Honnington in February
- U14 Netballers progressed through to the finals of the Essex Cup
- 8 of our senior swimmers competed in the Bath Cup at the Olympic Pool - the girls qualified for the final heats
- UKMT - a record 136 mathematicians from the L4th to 5th form sat this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge Paper - 122 gained bronze, silver and gold awards The mathematicians also won the Essex round of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge
- Victoria Morgan-Crouch presented at this year's London Finals in the ARTiculation competition - she gained 3rd place
- International Women's Week - variety of events including mixed football, a performance of 'In the Parlour' by Judy Tate and many craft events. The week finished with a combined International Women's Day / Careers Event where eight speakers celebrated women's achievements in STEAM careers
- Andrew McGregor was awarded best delegate at the MUN at City of London School
- Art Exhibition at the View Gallery
- Music Junction has continued throughout the term - 18 mentor pupils have worked closely with pupils from St Paul's Way Trust, Drapers' Academy and primary schools in Havering. They showcase their efforts on the 9th May at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea

#### **8. Reports from Charities**

##### ***a. The Educational Development Fund (Jeremy Bromfield)***

The EDF Committee has met four times in the past year, its membership has remained stable except that Fiona Mountford resigned as a Trustee and was replaced by Ian Skuce.

A lot of time has been spent this year ensuring that our procedures and practices conform to recent changes in Charity and Data Protection law. The Committee now feels that its practices in relation to both new Charity Law and GDPR are robust.

The Fund has made 10 grants this year totalling £13,600:

- 6 grants totalling £3850 were to current pupils, comprising of contributions towards participation in Sports Tours and Language Tours abroad. The Fund works closely with the School jointly to support pupils on Sports Tours
- 4 grants totalling £9,750 were made to Old Bancroftians. All were to help fund postgraduate courses.

Income in our financial year ending May 2018 from COIF managed funds was nearly £18,000. With the addition of donations and gift aid total income was £21,500. Investment income is anticipated to be about the same in the current financial year; donations are harder to predict.

Some OBs have become aware of the fund through the EDF Facebook page – but the fund would like to reach a wider audience. It is hoped that OBs of future generations will be more aware of the Fund thanks to the sterling efforts of Chris Butler (Assistant Head Co-Curricular) who ensures that all organising activities in the School make participants aware of the fund.

#### ***b. The Sixth Form Scholarship Trust (Martin Sumner)***

Thanks to Adam Koddish and Michael Watts for the accounts.

Two half scholarships were awarded in the sixth Form. Another was offered for this September.

A merger with the Foundation is being considered. An OBA scholarship in perpetuity would form part of the agreement.

If there is a merger, arrangements for legacies and donations are to be maintained. A legal formula is being worked out.

David Leighton as President has not been replaced yet.

### ***9. Reports from Clubs and Societies***

#### ***a. Rugby (Steve Thirsk)***

##### **- SENIOR PLAYING**

We continue to run 2 sides. We have dropped out of the leagues and have played in the Essex Merit Tables which have more relaxed rules. Essex league 2 may be resurrected next season in which case we shall return.

##### **- JUNIOR PLAYING**

Very successful at present. We have registered 162 players which is a 30% increase on last season. A good number are Bancroft's pupils.

##### **- CLUBHOUSE AND FACILITIES**

We have just concluded a major refurbishment of both main hall and lounge bar. I urge all OBs to visit and try the new facilities. After 50 years valiant service, we have replaced the original boiler and hot water system at a cost of £30,000 fortunately assisted with some available grants.

- 50 YEARS ON

A successful lunch was held at the beginning of the season to celebrate 50 years at Buckhurst Way. There was a good turnout of former players, many of them OBs.

***b. Golf (Adam Kodish)***

We enjoyed an above average year under the Captaincy of Andrew Montlake.

The competitive highlight was qualifying for the finals of the Public Schools' Grafton Morrish competition.

We were able to attend partly due to generous financial assistance from the OBA.

However we were soundly beaten in the first round by Sherburne who had a significantly better team than ours.

We played our usual set of events, over both 18 holes and 9 holes.

The three 9-hole events were attended by our members and also a small number of Bancroft's parents and pupils and we hope to build on this in future.

Our three day tour in September visited Suffolk, playing at Felixstowe Ferry, Thorpeness and Ufford Park.

We fared badly in our matches against the other Essex schools in spite of fielding relatively strong teams.

Roger Booth is this year's Captain and Lionel Smith is Vice-Captain.

We have 18-hole meetings at Gog Magog, Chigwell, Felixstowe Ferry, Thorpeness and Ipswich and 9-hole events at Woodford, Chigwell and Wanstead.

Full details of our events can be found in our Bancroft's Connect group.

***c. The Bancroft's Society (Nick Bowman)***

When Nick was President, a working group was established. There are detailed plans and it will launch later this year. The objective is to give more opportunities for OBs to participate in School activities.

***There was no other business.***

***The meeting closed at 7:25pm***

*A vote of thanks was given to the Drapers' Company for allowing the Association the use of Drapers' Hall for this and other Committee meetings during the year.*