

**Minutes of the Old Bordenian Association Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on Friday 24 September 2021**

**Members present:** Mark Bailey (chair), Paul Dawkins, Alan Eyles, Tom Frewin, Neil Hancock, Roger Mackett, David Palmer, Mark Sayer, Chris Terry, Donal Watkin, Tim Whitbread

**1. Apologies for absence:** Ashley Tomlin, Keith Shea, Ian Hazell, Ian Baron, Mick Pack

Mark Bailey gave a brief summary of major changes over the past 12 months. Covid has continued to have an impact on the running of the school. The new Head, Ashley Tomlin, has had a positive impact on the school and the Association and brings a different attitude to the OBA than the previous Head. There was sad news with the passing of Bryan Short, Headmaster of the school from 1968 to 1998. Mark also announced that the Old Bordenian Hockey Club had agreed at a recent EGM to change the name of the club to Sittingbourne Hockey Club. Further details are included in the Reports from Officers below.

**2. Minutes of AGM 2020, Committee Meeting of 14 July 2021 and matters arising:**

The minutes of both meetings were agreed. The Action Log circulated prior to the meeting (attached to these minutes) documented the matters arising from previous meetings and was reviewed.

Action 1: Ashley put out a communication to all school leavers, resulting in 8 new members signing up.

Action 2: Chris Terry had received some comments on the draft poster and would now take forward.

Action 3: A revised constitution had been produced and was scheduled to be discussed under Any Other Business.

Action 4: Mark Sayer will assist Chris Terry to take forward the survey of the membership, using Mail Chimp

Action 5: Chris Terry has tried to contact Steve Dale (IT manager at the school) to discuss the options available to us following the school's move to a new website with little success. He will contact Ashley to push for dialogue to start. It was pointed out that if we developed our own new website, we would lose the current URL links.

Action 6: This action (related to a potential new e-Maroon) is carried forward.

Action 7: Jeremy Swaffer provided a proposal regarding the Wellbeing Garden project.

Action 8: Completed – Dan Germain spoke at the prizegiving.

Action 9: Completed – various payment options are now available.

Action 10: Donal Watkin said that although there are now options on the website to address generic requests, he asked if we could have a standard OBA letterhead and email signature for any specific replies.

Action 11: Carried forward - David Palmer would check with Keith Shea whether membership database had been updated.

Action 12: Carried forward – Mark Sayer would reach out to Captain Kitson again and take forward by providing a draft article for his approval.

Action 13: Action completed – Donal would provide an update in his Treasurer's report.

Action 14: Completed – Neil Hancock provided the following information regarding the George Dawkins Cricket Bat award: *“George was an older version of John Macrae in that he also went to BGS. Then to University where he graduated in 1922 with a high honours award. His name is on the honours board in the old hall, together*

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*with many famous fellow students of that era. On leaving Uni George came back to BGS, where he stayed for 36 years till 1958, when I [Neil] was in the Lower Sixth! So, subject to Uni, and possibly military service, he was at BGS for some 43 years. Because of his great interest in cricket, the OBA held a fundraiser to pay for an annual award of a bat to the most deserving cricketer. The Treasurer at the time got the IR to accept Charity for these funds, so an annual tax refund arose from tax deducted from the interest received. An article on George featured in a Maroon magazine at the time. He was an excellent Physics master, being part of staff who produced a number of State Scholarships for students, a system which ceased around 1963. These paid most if not all the necessary funds to get students through College.”* Chris Terry said that we need to know who gets the award and when it is presented. Mark Bailey would ask Neil Hancock for the information. Paul Dawkins said that John Macrae had carried out a lot of research on this subject and had mentioned him in the tour of the school, published in the 2008 Maroon and recently added to the website (Secretary’s note: Use this link - [A Walk Through The School](#) )

Action 15: Carried forward. Mark Bailey gave a brief overview of the Trust Fund in question, set up following the sale of the old School House in the corner of the school grounds. The fund has been renamed the {1928 / 1878} Trust Fund to identify it separately from the School trust. Mark Sayer has offered to be the OBA trustee. Mark Bailey is still awaiting information regarding the current position.

Action 16: Action completed – this was taken forward as a separate item under Any Other Business.

**3. Election of Officers and Committee:** Chris Terry proposed and Mark Bailey seconded the following officers and committee to be elected for 2021/22. This was carried.

| <b>Role</b>                                            | <b>Elected Officer</b>                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| President                                              | A Tomlin                                 |
| Chair                                                  | M Bailey                                 |
| Hon. Secretary                                         | D Palmer                                 |
| Hon. Treasurer                                         | D Watkin                                 |
| Membership secretary                                   | K Shea                                   |
| Dinner Secretary                                       | M Bailey                                 |
| Communications / Digital /<br>Publicity representative | C Terry                                  |
| OBA Trustees                                           | M Bailey                                 |
| Football representative                                | K Shea                                   |
| Hockey representative                                  | D Palmer                                 |
| Committee                                              | A Eyles, T Frewin, N Hancock,<br>M Sayer |
| Accounts examiner                                      | P Taylor                                 |
| Archives / Remembrance<br>representative               | M Stewart                                |

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### **4. Reports from Officers**

**Treasurer's Report:** Donal Watkin provided the approved accounts (attached to these minutes) and provided an overview of income and expenditure. It was noted that again income was less than expenditure, but this was expected due to our commitment at the 2018 AGM to fund the school minibus. [Secretary's note – the meeting agreed to fund the 4<sup>th</sup> year cost of the minibus, but payment for four years was originally agreed at the 2018 AGM and agreement for this additional year is not required). He reported that funding was stable but was expected to rise in the future with our efforts to recruit new members. Donal reported that we had applied to HMRC for recognition for charitable status to allow us to claim Gift Aid on future donations [Secretary's note: Letter dated 21/9/21 was received by Mark Bailey on 1/10/21, confirming he is now an official].

David Palmer proposed acceptance of the accounts as presented. Chris Terry seconded this proposal and the meeting carried the proposal. The accounts were therefore accepted.

**Communications Report:** Chris Terry presented his report (attached to these minutes). Chris thanked Mark Sayer for his work in setting up the Mail Chimp system, which has revolutionised our comms campaigns and proved useful in signing up members. Mark Bailey added his thanks to Mark Sayer and to Keith Shea in his supporting work.

**Membership secretary's report:** In Keith Shea's absence, Mark Bailey presented the Membership report (attached to these minutes). Chris Terry reported that we had obtained another 27 members' details due to Keith's 'snail mail' exercise.

**Football Report:** The report provided by Keith Shea (attached to these minutes) in advance of the meeting was noted.

**Hockey Report:** David Palmer presented the Hockey report (attached to these minutes). The report had been written prior to the change of name from Old Bordenian Hockey Club to Sittingbourne Hockey Club had been announced. Alan Wilson, chairman of the club, provided the following reasons for the change in an email to Mark Bailey.

- It is clear that, subject to planning approvals, there will be a significant increase in the population of our area. We need to maximise the chances of our club being the beneficiary of this, and future, influxes and the beneficiary of those people who have moved into the housing developments recently completed and may be looking to play hockey
- We believe that the proposed change to a name which immediately and closely links us to the town will increase the possibility of attracting funding and sponsorship, especially from local corporates, for whom the concept of funding for a project linked to the town brings greater kudos. Funding, and external funding in particular, has become an important factor in planning for expansion, for progression in the development of the club and for laying the foundation for further league success
- We need to ensure that an internet search for hockey+Sittingbourne+club = Sittingbourne HC and no other club.

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Mark Bailey noted that this would remove the frequent confusion between the Association and Hockey Club.

**Dinner Report:** Mark Bailey reported that it is hoped that we will be able to hold an Annual Dinner in the school in March 2022, although the Covid situation may well change this. He confirmed to Paul Dawkins that the payments for the 2020 dinner would be held over until 2022. Mark said that he didn't expect to increase the price for those that had paid in 2020, although Paul Dawkins didn't foresee any issues if this was required. Donal Watkin said that he was aware that a number of 21<sup>st</sup> century leavers were planning to attend the 2022 dinner. Mark Sayer suggested that the speaker could present remotely, as had been the case at the school's prizegiving. Mark Bailey said that, with the greater recognition of the Association by the Head, that he hopes to get more attendance from staff.

**Remembrance Report:** It was reported that the annual Remembrance Service was not able to be held in 2020 due to Covid restrictions. David Palmer would contact Marc Stewart and Neil Hancock to obtain details of this year's service.

**5. School Update:** Ashley Tomlin had provided a written update prior to the meeting (attached to these minutes). Mark Bailey reported that there had been no formal exams this year, with results being awarded following Teacher Assessed Grades. Covid challenges for the school had been overcome with a great deal of extra work having to be carried out. Mark reported that the Bursar had left the school to take up a post elsewhere. Chris Terry asked whether the OBA should do something to thank the teachers. David Palmer said he wasn't in favour as this did not fall within the aims of the Association and it had been agreed a few years previously to stop such funding. Mark Bailey took an action to look at how we could take this forward. A new school building is being built, subject to planning consent. KCC are funding the building and it is their responsibility to approve the planning. Donal Watkin said that the new building was needed by the school to attract and keep sixth formers (Years 12 and 13) who are leaving to attend other Swale schools with better facilities. Chris Terry drew attention to the last paragraph of the school report, asking for input from Old Bordenians for the regular school newsletter. All members were asked to consider responding, with Chris taking the lead in the response to the school.

### **6. Meeting / dinner dates for the forthcoming year**

As noted above, the Annual Dinner will be held in late March 2022, if practical from a school and Covid aspect.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 at 19:00. The 2022 AGM was set for Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 at 19:00.

### **7. Any Other Business**

**Wellbeing Garden Update:** Jeremy Swaffer is moving the project forward and the garden is underway and has been inundated with old tools. Students have been asked to bring in seeds and plants. In the near future, Jeremy will ask us to assist with potential capital projects. Following a discussion, David Palmer proposed setting aside £500 initially for such projects. This was seconded by Mark Sayer and the proposal was carried.

**Targeted Donation Campaigns:** Mark Sayer suggested we use a site such as Just Giving for any targeted campaigns where we seek donations. This was supported by

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Donal Watkin. If this was adopted, we would need to set a target for each specific campaign. For example, one for the Wellbeing garden with a separate one for the minibus. Mark Sayer would take this suggestion forward.

**OBA Constitution Revision:** Following a discussion on a small number of points on the previously distributed proposed revision, it was agreed no changes were required. Donal Watkin proposed the adoption of the new constitution and this was seconded by Chris Terry. The meeting agreed and the new constitution will be adopted. This is attached at the end of these minutes.

There being no further business, the AGM closed at 20:51.

David Palmer  
Secretary

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**Old Bordenian Association Action Log**

| No | Date    | Action (and resolution)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Action by                      | Date Completed |
|----|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1  | 24/9/20 | Trustees (Mark Bailey and Donal Watkin) to raise the need to maintain contact with pupils after they leave the school at the next Trustees meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mark Bailey<br>Donal<br>Watkin | 10/8/21        |
| 2  | “       | Chris Terry would produce material to be posted on the currently empty OBA noticeboard in school entrance. <i>Chris has produced a draft poster – to be circulated with AGM papers.</i>                                                                                                                                                     | Chris Terry                    | 12/9/21        |
| 3  | “       | David Palmer would check the current constitution and draft an amended version if required. <i>Draft produced by Mark Sayer for discussion at 2021 AGM</i>                                                                                                                                                                                  | David<br>Palmer                | 12/9/21        |
| 4  | “       | Ashley Tomlin asked if we had surveyed the membership to identify what they want from the Association. He said that a Google Forms survey might prove useful. Chris Terry said that he would look into it. <i>In progress – will use Mailchimp</i>                                                                                          | Chris Terry                    | c/f            |
| 5  | 12/5/21 | Chris Terry will contact Steve Dale to explore the options available to us regarding our website. It was also suggested that a message be sent out to all members, via Mailchimp, to ask for suitably qualified / experienced volunteers to develop a new website. <i>Contact made earlier in 2021, but no satisfactory engagement yet.</i> | Chris Terry                    | c/f            |
| 6  | “       | All committee members were tasked with looking at what format an e-Maroon could take and what it could include.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | All<br>committee<br>members    |                |
| 7  | 14/7/21 | Jeremy Swaffer to i) provide suitable proposal document regarding the Wellbeing garden for the OBA website; ii) draft an article for the School newsletter.                                                                                                                                                                                 | Jeremy<br>Swaffer              |                |
| 8  | “       | Mark Bailey suggested Jason Lee would be an excellent choice for a speaker at the school prize giving, if available, who had spoken at the OBA dinner in recent years. <i>Dan Germain rather than Jason Lee</i>                                                                                                                             | Mark Bailey                    | 1/8/21         |
| 9  | “       | Work had been carried out to provide annual, monthly and one-off payments via PayPal, but this had not yet been completed. <i>Various payment options now available via the website. Donation Payments have been implemented and a new tab has been placed on the OBA Website.</i>                                                          | Mark Sayer<br>Chris Terry      | 14/7/21        |
| 10 | “       | Donal said that he would draft a generic letter to send to anyone making a request to make a donation, to streamline the process. <i>There is a form of words on the webpage encompassing donations by Standing Order, eBanking Payment, Debit or Credit Card, PayPal or Cheque.</i>                                                        | Donal<br>Watkin                | 19/9/21        |
| 11 | “       | Keith Shea would update the membership database with details of donations received on 1 June.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Keith Shea                     |                |
| 12 | “       | Mark Sayer would approach Captain Robert Haig Kitson to ask whether we could serialise his military service memoir on our website. <i>Mark is still awaiting a response</i>                                                                                                                                                                 | Mark Sayer                     | c/f            |
| 13 | “       | The Registration for Charitable Recognition status with HMRC would be taken forward and the outcome reported in the Treasurer’s Report at the next AGM                                                                                                                                                                                      | Donal<br>Watkin<br>Mark Bailey | 15/9/21        |

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|    |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |              |         |
|----|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| 14 | “ | David Palmer would consult Neil Hancock to investigate the history of the cricket bat award. <i>Information received from Neil and forwarded to Donal Watkin for inclusion in the annual Treasurer’s report. If this is not practical, info will be added to AGM minutes.</i> | David Palmer | 6/9/21  |
| 15 | “ | Mark Bailey offered to get more information on the current position of the Trust Fund. <i>Awaiting Trustee response</i>                                                                                                                                                       | Mark Bailey  | c/f     |
| 16 | “ | Mark Bailey agreed to contact Jeremy Swaffer to identify any immediate cost requirements and how the OBA community could help with the Wellbeing garden initially. <i>To cover in AOB at the 2021 AGM</i>                                                                     | Mark Bailey  | 24/9/21 |

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**Approved accounts 2021**

**OLD BORDENIAN ASSOCIATION**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT: YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2021**

|                        | 2020-21               | 2019-20               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><u>INCOME:</u></b>  | £                     | £                     |
| Voluntary Donations:   | 3,082                 | 3,083                 |
| Annual Dinner surplus  | -                     | -                     |
| Book Sales             | -                     | -                     |
| Total:                 | 3,082                 | 3,083                 |
| <b><u>EXPENSES</u></b> | £                     | £                     |
| Minibus Contribution   | 4,000                 | 4,000                 |
| Paypal Fees            | 7                     | 35                    |
| Cricket Bat            | 90                    | 90                    |
| Mailshot (BGS)         | 101                   | -                     |
| Total:                 | 4,198                 | 4,125                 |
| <b>Net Deficit</b>     | <b><u>(1,116)</u></b> | <b><u>(1,042)</u></b> |

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2021**

|                      |               |               |               |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Funds B/F            | 11,477        | Stock of Ties | 198           |
| Dinner Monies C/F    | 1,374         | Bank Account  | 11,537        |
| Deficit for the Year | (1,116)       |               |               |
| <b>Total:</b>        | <b>11,735</b> | <b>Total:</b> | <b>11,735</b> |

I certify that these accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me.

P.M.Taylor, FCA (Examiner)

Signed : D.Watkin (Hon.Treasurer)



## Overview of income and expenditure

### Financial Statement: 2020-21



THE OLD BORDENIAN  
ASSOCIATION

|                       | 2020-21 (£)           | 2019-20 (£)           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Income</b>         |                       |                       |
| Voluntary Donations   | 3,082                 | 3,083                 |
| Annual Dinner surplus |                       | -                     |
| Book Sales            |                       | -                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>3,082</b>          | <b>3,083</b>          |
| <b>Expenditure</b>    |                       |                       |
| Minibus Contribution  | 4,000                 | 4,000                 |
| Paypal Fees           | 7                     | 35                    |
| Cricket Bat           | 90                    | 90                    |
| Mailshot              | 101                   | -                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>4,198</b>          | <b>4,125</b>          |
| <b>Net Surplus</b>    | <b><u>(1,116)</u></b> | <b><u>(1,042)</u></b> |

### Balance Sheet: 31 July 2021



THE OLD BORDENIAN  
ASSOCIATION

|                      | £             |               | £             |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Funds B/F            | 11,477        | Stock of Ties | 198           |
| Dinner Income C/F    | 1,374         | Bank Account  | 11,537        |
| Deficit for the Year | (1,116)       |               |               |
| <b>Total:</b>        | <b>11,735</b> | <b>Total:</b> | <b>11,735</b> |

### Financials Comparison



THE OLD BORDENIAN  
ASSOCIATION

|                                      | 2020-21 | 2019-20 (£) | 2018-19 (£) | 2017-18 (£) |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Income                               | 3,082   | 3,083       | 3,311       | 3,777       |
| Expenditure                          | 4,198   | 4,125       | 4,103       | 2,198       |
| Net Surplus                          | (1,116) | (1,042)     | (792)       | 1,579       |
| Balance Sheet                        | 11,735* | 12,851*     | 12,519      | 13,311      |
| * Holding<br>£1,374 Dinner<br>credit |         |             |             |             |

## **OBA AGM 2021 - Communications update**

Our communications with the membership during 2021 are summarised in this Paper.

### *Website*

The OBA Website continues to be our primary method for posting notices of events, Association news and other articles. It also acts as a repository for some archive materials as well, including some scanned back issues of the Maroon and other Association publications. During the year to date we have posted around 21 articles and notices. The most actively 'hit' articles are listed below:

- Bryan Short Obituary – 683 Hits
- Bryan Short Funeral – 466 hits
- Plans for new School Building – 432 hits
- BGS Meccano Club – 409 hits
- Virtual OB Meet Ups 'First Wednesdays' – 360 hits

In aggregate there is more traffic than we experienced through 2020 which may be explained by two factors. First, the unfortunate death of Bryan Short leading to a greater interest in the obituary and follow up articles. Second, the use of Mailchimp (see below) to drive more numerous notices to OBs of new articles.

Contact via the website – to the [admin@oldbordenians.co.uk](mailto:admin@oldbordenians.co.uk) address - maintained a steady flow of emails through the year, ranging from informing us of deaths to queries on records. One ongoing issue is that we need a new website. We know the School IT team is keen to decommission the server upon which our Website sits and the School has also moved onto a new Website set up themselves. I have tried to discuss the options with the School IT Manager but with little success. I will seek the Headmaster's support to kick start this conversation again, otherwise we should consider in 2022 moving to set up our own new Website with new costs.

### *Contacting OBs*

We retired the use of our old email system for proactive contact with OBs. Mark Sayer invested a lot of time setting up and training a number of us to use Mailchimp. Many thanks to Mark for his work on this which has already had a meaningful impact. The quality of the communications to OBs are much higher and the ability to understand the utility of any one 'campaign' is helpful. It also can post the same materials in tandem on the Facebook site (see below). Following the switchover and the results of the snail mail shot from Keith to 'silent' OBs, we now have 301 contacts – up from 192 addresses held on old email system.

### *Social Media*

The Old Bordenian Facebook site has ~300 followers, although these are not necessarily all OBs. Mark Sayer has linked the Mailchimp site with the Facebook page to create a rash of new posts and there is much greater interaction than before on the site. There is an 'Old Bordenians' LinkedIn group with 151 (no change from 2020) members. I send messages on regular basis extolling full membership but to date, with apparently little success!

### *Printed digest*

The printed digest was not sent this year. Covid restrictions limited access to the printing facilities I use (the office!) to print a quality multi-page document. I will endeavour to produce one at the end of the year, whilst offices are still open, particularly in light of the amount of material we have produced on Bryan Short.

**Chris Terry**

## **Membership Report**

Since the switch last year from subscriptions to donations I will no longer issue a table as I have in the past showing the number of members, but not names, and the subscription values.

As reported last year everyone who has ever attended the School whether that is as a pupil or staff is now a member of the Association.

I continue to update the database to record those Old Bordenians making a donation whether that is by an annual donation or a one off payment. I also update the contact details and record any deaths notified to the Association.

I note from the accounts provided by the Treasurer for the 2021 AGM that income from subscriptions / donations to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 has dropped by £1 to from £3,083 last year to £3,082. Counter-intuitively this is encouraging as we have a lot of ex-pupils and one ex-staff member who have expressed a desire to make a donation but had not done so by 31<sup>st</sup> July and a number of existing donors who have made larger one-off payments after this cut off date. Unfortunately we have also been notified of the death of a number of long standing members, see their details below, and we will ensure that their donations have been stopped.

Since the last AGM we have advised all those listed as current donors on the data base of the move from subscriptions to donations. We did not have email addresses for around 200 names on the database and so wrote to all of them and inevitably we had a number of letters returned because that particular Old Bordenian had moved away. The mailshot also generated responses advising us that a particular Old Bordenian had sadly passed away.

The Association has also generated a lot of interest via its internet based Mailchimp tool which has been set up to help locate lapsed and new donors via the email addresses that we already have in our database or from other sources including Facebook and Instagram. This has resulted in a number of people updating their own details, many OBs expressing an interest in donating for the first time and at least ten lapsed members wishing to reacquaint themselves with the OBA.

This augurs well for an increase in the future income of the OBA.

In addition Mark Bailey has persuaded the new headmaster Ashley Tomlin to issue a letter promoting the OBA to all school leavers. For a number of years now the OBA has not been able to approach school leavers due to GDPR regulations but this hopefully will encourage some leavers to approach the OBA and become active within the Association.

### **Deaths of Association Members.**

Regrettably, we have been advised of the passing of the following members since the last AGM.

Bryan Short who was headmaster between 1968 and 1998, George Beynon (who left the School in 1947): Peter Bedelle (left in 1949): Michael Gillet (left in 1954): Ray Hill (at the School between 1937 and 1942): David Cross (1940 – 1946): Alan Forster (1945 – 1951): Barrie Mann (1947 – 1954): Mike Symons (left in 1969).

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**Subscriptions from deceased Association members.**

Last year I referred to subscriptions the OBA is still receiving from the families of two deceased members.

The first is David John Nicholls (at the School between 1950 -1957) who died in 2011. We receive an annual £10 subscription from PM Nicholls on behalf of David. Last year I reported that I had sent an email to the address in our database to explain the situation and that the email hadn't bounced back. Unfortunately that hasn't stopped the annual £10 donation which has arrived this year. We will have to approach the bank to see if they can stop it.

The second was Dennis Gaydon Simmons who left the School in 1952 but one of our committee has managed to speak to the family and that subscription has now stopped.

Keith Shea  
Membership Secretary  
22 September 2021

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**Football report.**

Eager readers will remember that the football report for the 2019/2020 noted that the Sittingbourne Indoor Men's 5-a-side league was suspended in March 2020 due to Government imposed Covid restrictions.

At the time of the suspension the Old Bordenians team had reached the final of the Charity Cup and had led the League for the whole season being 11 points clear with just 12 points to play for.

The epidemic was promoted to a pandemic in March 2020 and as we are all painfully aware, matters quickly escalated and it was not possible, or desirable, to play any more games. So, the committee took the decision to abandon the League and declare Old Bordenians the league winners – yet again!

The committee continued with the suspension of the final matches of the four cup competitions until those games can be played as all four finals can be played in one evening.

Restrictions were lifted for outdoor football earlier this year and some indoor sport is now allowed but the Kent County Football Association (KCFA) has not yet issued any guidance for indoor football. And who can blame them? With 10 sweaty young (and old) men running around in close proximity without masks in an unventilated sports hall it's far too dangerous.

Consequently the 20/21 that would have run from August 20 to May 21 was abandoned completely and at the moment the 21/22 season cannot start. There is still interest from all of the teams in the league so when the KCFA issues some guidance matters may become clearer.

We have the option of playing a season outside and we are exploring this but it still involves an element of risk for any unvaccinated or partially vaccinated participants and for the long-term interest of the players, officials and the League it is probably a risk too far until Covid case numbers reduce dramatically.

For the record the League winning squad for the 2019-2020 season was Cliff Cork (when his knees allowed), Jon Cork, Nick Denham, Christian Hillyard, Aaron Leigh, Aida Mackender, Keith Shea, Peter Thompson and Simon Thompson.

As ever, if anyone wants to join the squad, then please contact me at [toshea@live.co.uk](mailto:toshea@live.co.uk), although you may have to wait a while for a game.

Keith Shea  
22nd September 2021

## **Hockey Report**

The following report was provided by Alan Wilson, Chairman of OBHC:

### **2021 report:**

Just to set the scene, the opening paragraph of my report one year ago reads:

“The 2019/2020 season was one of varied fortunes for our teams. The season ended abruptly on 16<sup>th</sup> March, one week short of the final game of the season due to the lockdown resulting from the pandemic. There was much uncertainty as to whether the final league matches would be played and, if not, how would promotions and relegations be decided? England Hockey took the decision, the most sensible and fair decision in my view, that the league positions as at 16<sup>th</sup> March would be the basis for promotions and relegations.”

The start of the 2020/2021 season was inauspicious to say the least. Our men’s 1<sup>st</sup> X1 coach announced his departure, for personal reasons, just a few weeks before the first fixture, and this was followed two weeks later by the news that our men’s 1<sup>st</sup> X1 captain, a key player in the squad, would not be able to play for medical reasons. Could the season get off to a worse start? Well, as a matter of fact, the answer to that is yes. In the second match, away at Sevenoaks, a series of inept decisions (I am not in the habit of criticising umpires), which I witnessed as a spectator, resulted in the two teams sharing a haul of two yellow and three red cards, of which two reds were awarded to OBs. Both clubs shared the same view of the incidents and of the awarding of all of the cards and both registered their views to the appropriate authority, however once a red has been awarded, the minimum penalty for each player of a sixteen-day suspension cannot be rescinded. Depending on the severity of the incident, it can be extended. Our new captain and a midfielder would now serve a sixteen-day ban and miss the following two matches, which of both resulted in a drubbing for OBs.

Before the ramifications of all of these very unfortunate events could play out, we found ourselves in lockdown again. No further hockey took place in that season.

Bl\*\*dy lockdown! Or, all hail lockdown!?

At the time of writing this report, we are two weeks away from the start of the 2021/2022 season. Are we ready? Well, almost. The retirement from hockey of our previous men’s 1<sup>st</sup> X1 ‘keeper left a gap that was difficult to fill, with no obvious successor in view. Our prayers were answered when we were contacted recently by an Argentinian goalkeeper who was looking to play in the UK. His credentials confirmed that he appeared to be a worthy replacement to fill our goalkeeping role and, to cut a fairly long story short, he arrived in the UK yesterday. One gap filled!

A few seasons ago, a former New Zealand national under-21 player joined us briefly but left as a result of his job and house move. We are now pleased to welcome him back for this season, although work commitments will prevent him from playing all games. Almost two gaps filled!

In the intervening period between the early cessation of the last season and now, England Hockey have undertaken a complete national overhaul and restructure

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of leagues, for both genders, and our men's and women's 1<sup>st</sup> X1s are each in a very strong division in the new structure.

The new structure is accompanied by the introduction of a new online Games Management System which will provide fixtures information, umpire appointments, registration of all players and, in time, statistical information. However, at the time of writing this report, the system is not working. This is causing consternation and frustration in all corners of the UK hockey community.

In addition to all of this, it still remains to be seen what effect Covid and its consequences have had on our membership and, Indeed, on that of all sports clubs.

It is clear, therefore, that any predictions as to success or otherwise in the coming season would be premature and perhaps foolish.

**Alan Wilson**  
**OBHC**

## School Update



### Old Bordenians Update Sept 2021

#### School wellbeing

The list below is a reminder of some of the key pastoral and wellbeing things put in place during the year 2020-21 for students,

- Google classroom and Edulink introduction (communication, behaviour, interaction etc)
- Tutor checks/follow up during lockdown
- Introduction of year group bases and bubbles (bases kept this year)
- Home visits (all student visited returned to school)
- Employment of pastoral worker
- New exit and isolation system
- Schools police officer regularly interacting with staff and students
- Student surveys (bullying, safeguarding and wellbeing, learning in lockdown, values etc)
- Ambassadors at each key stage (diversity KS4 and wellbeing KS5 were new)
- Assemblies on various key topics i.e. violence, consent, values, pride and inclusivity etc
- Support websites displayed in every class, website and emailed home
- Outside speakers on various topics i.e consent, road safety and more booked esp prevent and online behaviour etc.
- Morning meet and greet at year group gates
- Wellbeing garden planned
- Upskilled tutors and staff on mental health and RSE
- Confidential wellbeing email address available to students
- Close monitoring and support at Sainsburys

We believe that a combination of these things, the proper use of escalation and restoration in our systems and the 'want' to be back at school from students has resulted in lower fixed term exclusions. That said, this year will be a more accurate reflection of whether these are longer term improvements.

The list below is a reminder of some of the key pastoral and wellbeing things put in place during the year 2020-21 for staff,

- Numerous decisions made to minimise staff anxiety (virtual parents evenings and meetings, changes to events, reduction in directed time etc)
- Wellbeing email address
- Expansion of counselling services
- Wellbeing/memorial garden (funding agreed, but not yet started)
- Regular staff CPD on behaviour management and avoiding escalation
- a wellbeing survey with feedback after LG discussion
- Wellbeing group established/met
- All new staff have buddies
- Tea and talk after school

#### School Events

Please see the new newsletter on our (new) website for details of all the things going on. We now have performing arts clubs 4 nights a week, chess club has restarted as well as the



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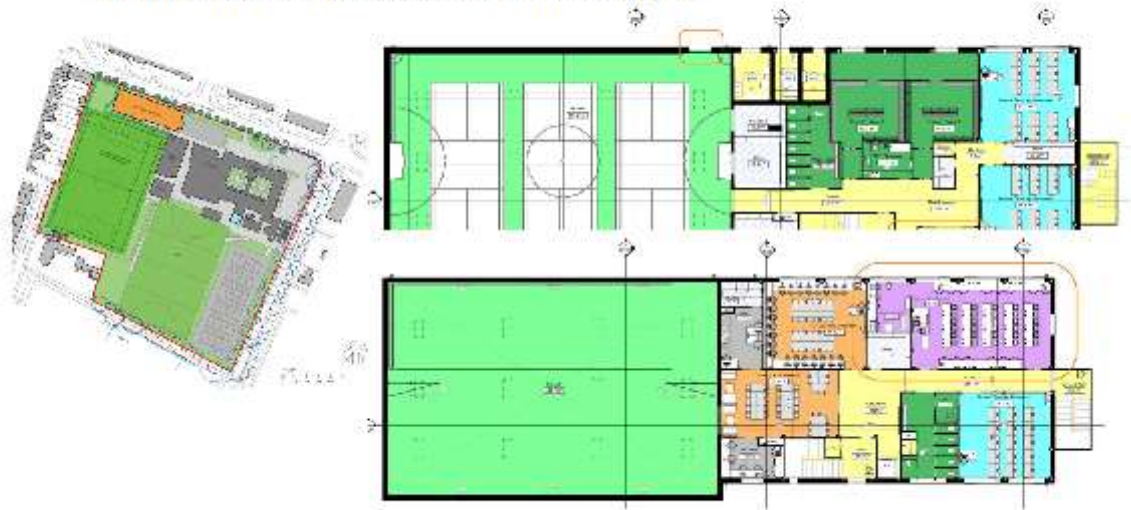
usual PE fixtures. We have also started raising funds for charities as well with the bake sale. I want more!!!

### **Prize Giving**

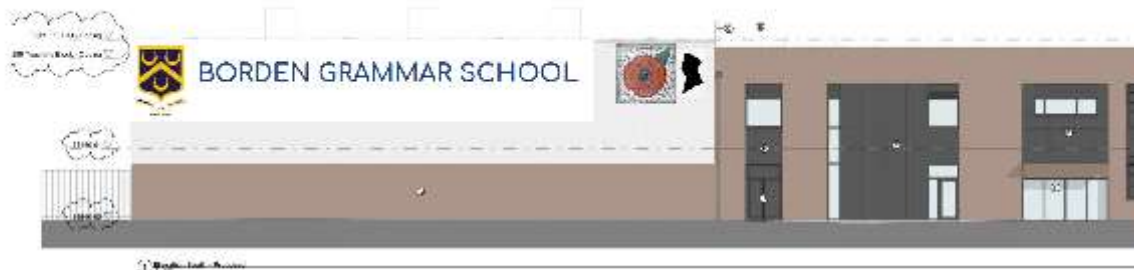
A slimmed down version took place for year 13 with Dan Germaine as the guest speaker (co-founder of Innocent Smoothies) and he was excellent.

### **Buildings...**

We had 15 councillors visit us at the end of the day last week regarding our planned £5 million new build which has again appeared in the local press.



They came to look at traffic and hear the case for the building being at the front of the school. Myself and the representative for Sittingbourne residents each made our case. I also presented the idea that the side of the building could have a representation that links to the Avenue if that was the main concern (some first ideas from me below!)



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We have updated reception now and have two temporary classrooms on site as we have expanded to 5 forms in year 7, I have had areas repainted white and pictures of students are now on walls instead of the faded 'old painters' prints. All the old school photos have been taken down to be reframed (those that aren't damaged).



### **Going forward**

We have another newsletter going out at the end of this half term (2 a half term). I would really like something from the OBs - maybe a short paragraph on "Borden Remembers" with a story of something that happened or what it was like back in the day etc.....this will help raise your profile! The wellbeing garden is in the planning stage now, but there hasn't been much real school time between now and the last meeting for much to happen.

Many thanks for your continued support and I hope that provides a brief update in my absence!

Kind regards

Ashley

AT 21.09.21



## **THE CONSTITUTION of the OLD BORDENIAN ASSOCIATION**

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1. The name shall be the **OLD BORDENIAN ASSOCIATION** (“the OBA”).
2. The following shall be eligible for Membership of the OBA:
  - All those whose names have appeared on the Roll of Borden Grammar School (“the School”)
  - Past and present Members of the Staff of the School
  - Past and present Members of the School’s Governing Body
3. The objects of the OBA shall be as follows:
  - To assist the School and its organisations financially and in practical ways.
  - To hold reunions, to foster good fellowship and a corporate spirit amongst Members.
  - To arrange sports and various activities for the Members through Recognised Sections.
4. Membership of the OBA shall be free to those eligible.
5. The affairs of the OBA shall be controlled by an elected Committee of Members (“The Committee”). Each Member of The Committee shall have one vote.  
The Offices of the OBA shall be:
  - The Honorary President (normally the Headmaster of the School)
  - The Honorary Chair
  - The Honorary Secretary
  - The Honorary Treasurer
  - The Honorary Membership SecretaryNo Member shall hold more than one Office concurrently.

Other Members of The Committee:

- One Member nominated by each of the Recognised Sections.
- The OBA Representative(s) on the Board of School Governors.
- Ordinary Members, attending the AGM.
- Roles may be added or deleted by vote of The Committee
- The Committee shall have the power of co-optation of a Member of the OBA until the next AGM or EGM. Co-opted Members shall have the same voting rights as elected Committee Members.

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- 6.** The Association shall hold an Annual General Meeting (“AGM”) which shall normally be held shall be held each September at the School or such other location agreed by The Committee.

  - (a) Notice of the AGM shall be published at least one month in advance on the Old Bordenian Website and by email to Members where their email addresses are known.
  - (b) If there are any special items that Members may wish to include in the AGM agenda, including changes to this Constitution, these must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least two weeks in advance.
  - (c) The Agenda for the AGM shall be published at least one week in advance on the Old Bordenian Website and by email to Members where their email addresses are known.
  - (d) The Honorary Treasurer shall prepare the OBA’s Annual Accounts made up to 31<sup>st</sup> July each year and have them certified by an Honorary Independent Examiner appointed by The Committee, and shall present them to the AGM for approval.
  - (e) The Officers and Role holders shall each prepare a report for the year and shall present them to the AGM.
- 7.** The Officers of the OBA, Role holders, and Ordinary Members of The Committee, all of whom shall be Honorary and must be Members of the OBA, shall be elected annually at the AGM.
- 8.** A minimum of four Members of The Committee shall constitute a quorum for The Committee meetings, AGM and EGM.
- 9.** The Committee shall have the power to set up various sub-committees and coopt to them additional Members from within the OBA.
- 10.** All minutes, reports and proceedings of sub-committees, duly signed by the Chair of such subcommittee, shall be presented to The Committee at its next meeting.
- 11.** Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM). The Membership may call an Extra Ordinary General Meeting on the written application of ten or more Members of the OBA. Notice of an EGM shall be published at least two weeks in advance on the Old Bordenian Website and by email to Members where their email addresses are known.
- 12.** Funding of the OBA shall be by recognised donations. All donations shall be listed proforma and declared at the next AGM by the Honorary Treasurer.
- 13.** The funds of the OBA shall be administered by the Honorary Treasurer, and all payments shall be authorised by the Honorary Treasurer and either the Honorary Chair or the Honorary Secretary, or such other authorised signatories agreed by The Committee.
- 14.** Honorary Life Membership of the OBA may be conferred if it is considered that exceptional services have been rendered to the OBA or to the School which merit the award of this distinction. The conferral of an Honorary Life Membership shall be by the unanimous vote of The Committee.