



OLD SOUTHENDIAN ASSOCIATION

Reports of the Executive Committee

**to be presented at
The Annual General Meeting
to be held via *Google Meet*
on
Wednesday, 11th November 2020**

**Keith Spenceley
General Secretary
Email: secretary@oldsouthendianassociation.org**

8th November 2019

Agenda Item 4 – Chairman’s Report

When I was elected Chairman at the 2019 AGM I had plans to organise my three year tenure around the planning and implementation of the 125 Anniversary Gardens at the School and wrestle with the complexities of the School Archive funding arrangements.

In line with the rest of the world I could not have imagined the turmoil which has beset the world and the arrangements that have unfolded in Britain in an attempt to minimise the pressures on the health system.

Needless to say, Association business has taken a back seat and you will note that we are taking a motion to the AGM to replay this year’s intentions in 2021. We have however had a number of technological moves forward with the membership system thanks to Joe Zammit and our membership has been able to partake in the online ‘Chin Wag’ thanks to Andy Crow.

Chris Sorrell has now retired and when his epidemic duties subside, we will be drawing up plans to start publishing the magazine again in a sustainable manner. You will be pleased to know that we have maintained several funding commitments to the School one being the annual sponsorship of the majority of prizes in the Senior Prize giving.

I am sorry there is no more to report other than I see loads of Members around in my travels who are making a difference to the community, many of them at Garon Park, where the community has been able to participate in volunteering, sports and wellbeing activities during these unsettled times.

Looking forward to a brighter 2021.

Clive Shiret – Athens 1973-75

Agenda Item 6.1 – Report from the School

The 2019/20 academic and financial year will be remembered for decades, by all associated with Southend High School for Boys, as the period when education was disrupted by the Covid-19 global pandemic. This is certainly the headline, but that masks another exceptional year of activity, delivery and outcomes for the whole school team.

The Autumn Term began with confidence, emerging from a Summer that had seen superb examination results providing our students with the grades necessary for Higher Education, apprenticeships or employment. The school welcomed its largest Year 12 cohort (Lower Sixth) for many years and Sixth Form activities launched with the Model United Nations conference. The theme was ‘the liberation of oppressed people’: many local students joined our own in seeking to find solutions to global issues.

The school also celebrated outstanding individual performances in sport: in Year 13 we have a new world record holder in powerlifting, Ted Wooding, who won the Under 18 BDFPA National Final, and in doing so broke the WDFPF squat world record for his age and weight with a lift of 201kg.

Meanwhile, Year 11 were active within and beyond the classroom, for example, by undertaking Fieldwork in Belfairs Woods – to assess the impact of humans on the ecosystem: a ‘hands on’ approach to Geography. Students across all year groups participated in our annual collection for the Southend homeless charity HARP. We welcomed author Dan Freedman into school for some inspiring insight into his writing and career. Our Sixth Form recruitment Open Evening (the last, as it happens, to be staged for many months) brought record crowds. And in mid-November, pupils and staff were joined by former students and guests as we honoured those of our school community lost in war.

As Christmas approached, SHSB was once again represented at the ESAA National Cross Country Final. We have now had teams competing at every final since 1997; a national record. SHSB scored a tremendous 8th place for Junior Boys and 9th place for Intermediate Boys, out of the 29 qualifying schools. The two nights of the Christmas concert brought in a full house each evening; and there was no let-up as the end of term approached with a Physics trip to Greenwich Observatory, a German trip to Berlin and a Business Studies trip to London.

In the first glimpse of turbulent times, running parallel to the general election, our school community held a mock election. It was great to see so many students wanting to engage in the democratic process.

The Spring Term resumed and the school launched an online Art gallery, hosted the English Speaking Union Churchill Public Speaking competition (winning Best Chair), arranged for a group of Year 11 students to visit Emmanuel College, Cambridge (within the raising aspirations strand of our work), and completed a full rehearsal schedule for the annual show – Rock of Ages – never to be performed to a paying audience.

On so on March 20th, the school flag was raised for our leavers as 'closure' began. All our pupils committed themselves to being 'at their best' for the challenging weeks ahead: ready to stay healthy and fit, to be kind and helpful, and to study hard. For our leavers, who had contributed so much to the school, this departure will be etched in their memories forever - schooldays brought to an abrupt end with an authentic sense of loss.

With no prior notice and only 72 hours to organise, staff relocated our entire curriculum provision into a flexible online format (accessible to every pupil no matter their home circumstance). The school had already used Pupil Premium funding to ensure every pupil had equipment and connectivity. We initiated a programme of daily contact for our SEND and other vulnerable learners; providing on-site supported learning and cooked food for key-worker children and others (who needed our support) throughout term-time and holidays. For the whole of the Summer Term remote learning became the norm, with around 1000 online assignments provided for pupils each week, following the existing daily timetable model. A limited pattern of lessons resumed in July for Years 10 and 12, aligned to the needs of their examination courses.

Teaching staff generated, with evidence, nearly 4000 Centre Assessed Grades, every one individually moderated against statistical indicators. Unexpectedly these grades became the basis of final awarding, ensuring – despite the national fiasco – every one of our learners was legitimately credited for their study and performance during the time in school before ‘closure’.

We supported all members of our community facing one or more of the challenging consequences of lockdown ... and, so, the vast majority of our pupils returned in September with no discernible learning loss. And, when they did return, it was to an entirely reconstructed model of timetable delivery conceived under the exceptional constraints of national Public Health guidance and severe resource limitations.

Across the year, significant progress was made against a variety of tracked measures, including those imposed by the ESFA. Improvement priorities, although paused, were still to the forefront with marked gains in the pedagogical aspects of remote learning, the use of ICT in teaching and collaborative lesson design.

Exceptional contributions from the finance staff saw, for example, a full insurance backed recovery of all cancelled trips; as, in parallel, the premises team managed site improvements alongside the most prolonged period of continuous opening the school has probably ever seen, as well as systems for enhanced hygiene and cleaning. The school was able to maintain a full staffing complement at all critical points, despite a number of anticipated departures and retirements: only very limited periods of supply cover were needed.

The over-riding commitment in the school improvement plan to the values of our 2020 Vision remained at the forefront:

- *Pupils spend seven years at Southend High School for Boys: the influence of the school across that time can be significant in determining the life trajectory for each individual.*
- *Our vision is to set them on the path towards young adulthood with the highest aspirations and equipped to make a positive and worthwhile contribution to society – often in the role of leaders.*
- *Our responsibility extends beyond the necessary, but limited, confines of examination preparation, behaviour management and tutorial administration.*
- *Pupils learn what we teach, but more significantly they learn by how we teach.*
- *The extent to which they are skilled for practical adult life is very obviously in our hands; as is the degree to which they develop a sense of moral purpose for their public and private conduct in society.*
- *Our actions demonstrate that high self-esteem is not a consequence of high performance but of knowing what it means to have been ‘at your best’ through effort – we help to shape the choices and attitudes that make for the happy life.*

- *The opportunities and enthusiasm, within and beyond the classroom, induct our pupils into the fulfilled life.*
- *The contented, happy, young adult who is living a fulfilled life will visibly demonstrate self-assurance.*
- *Those who are skilled for the practical life and rich in wider cultural, social and personal experience can be seen to live in balance. Entering adult life with a clear sense of moral purpose and equipped to act, we see our students maturing to be agents of change within society.*
- *But also open to change and open to others – empathetic – as the values of personal morality and social justice blend with the tools that give access to sustained happiness.*

Robin M. Bevan

Headteacher, Southend High School for Boys

As a postscript, Dr Bevan also advises that the School has not yet been able to appoint a new School Captain; house activities have resumed for 2020/21, but the Cock House trophy was not awarded for 2019/20 (although a post hoc rationalisation to determine a winner may follow!) ...

Agenda Item 6.2 – Bowls Circle Report

Despite all the restrictions put in place at the start of the summer season in May owing to Covid 19, eventually, following some relaxations, we managed to start playing at the beginning of August. Some 20 of our members agreed to participate in the 6 friendly triples matches I was able to rearrange during August and September. Of these 3 were won and 3 were lost. In the fixture against Essex County, our rink of Ken Carter, Bill Chandler and Alan Worsdale achieved a notable 9 wood 'Hotshot', the second achieved over the last two years. Well done to them all.

Owing to restrictions our pre-season lunch in April was cancelled, the matches organised over the winter months have also been called off. Fixtures for summer 2021 are being arranged, but who knows if they will be played?

Trevor Johnson

Agenda Item 6.3 – Golf Circle

With our season due to commence with The Spring Meeting at the end of April at Brett Vale Golf Club and with many members already entered and paid up, we were all looking forward to the year ahead. However, a pandemic took us over and that was the end to that and for the rest of our events.

This being so, I have managed to rebook all the 2020 venues for 2021 with corresponding dates to this year.

Spring Meeting @ Brett Vale G. C.

Annual Tour @ Sandwich (1 month before The Open at Royal St. George's)

Guest Day @ Langdon Hills G. C.

Summer Meeting @ Lamberhurst G. C. (Home club of Circle Captain, John Welsford)

Autumn Meeting @ Royal Blackheath G. C. (Alastair McFarlane is Club Captain)

Obviously, all of this is subject to whatever, if any, restrictions will be in place at the time, but we must remain half full and hopeful of another enjoyable golfing season in 2021.

As ever, we would welcome any new members at any time and, if interested, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Graham Winckless, Honorary Secretary

Agenda Item 6.4 – Old Southendian & Southchurch Cricket Club

The unprecedented restrictions on “normal” life as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that there was no recreational cricket played throughout the land until mid-July, so the first half of our season was lost. The Essex League Committee, however, must be fully congratulated for the way in which they consulted with the Clubs and put together a 9-week mini-season from mid-July, with the teams of the participating Clubs allocated into regional divisions based on strength. They also issued some very practical guidelines to the Clubs to ensure that the games were played in a competitive but safe environment, taking into account the ongoing pandemic.

All things considered, this structure worked exceptionally well and the players that represented the four sides that OS&SCC entered into the tournament enjoyed their cricket. The Club’s 1st and 2nd XIs, playing on the county-standard surface at Garon Park, finished 3rd and 4th in their respective divisions, the 1st XI just being pipped to 2nd place in the table. The 3rd and 4th XIs thoroughly enjoyed playing at the picturesque Shoebury Garrison ground. The 3rd XI finished 6th in their division and were unlucky to finish on the losing side on three occasions in some very close finishes. The most promising feature of this shortened season was the contributions made by some of the younger players and this bodes very well for the future of the Club, when, all being well, we will be playing a full season in 2021.

Keith Spenceley (Tuscany, 1973-1980)
Honorary Secretary