

OD UNION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OD UNION HELD IN THE HYSLOP HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2015 AT 5:30PM

Present: The Patron of the OD Union: Michael Watermeyer, the President: Raymond Ackerman, Vice Presidents: John Arenhold, Alan Ramsay, Tony van Ryneveld, Les Masterson, Brian de Kock, David Carter, Chairman of the College Council: Mike Bosman, Principal: Guy Pearson, Headmaster of the Prep School: Greg Brown, Chairman of the OD Union: Brian Robertson, Patrick Henderson, Bovain Macnab, Phil Calothi, John Koster, Mark Campbell, John Macey, Stuart Maxwell, Brian Lefson, John Weaver, Nicholas Durrant, Jonathan Steytler, Julien Rumbelow, Bruce Jack, Simon Peile, John Bettison, Ulick Brown, Angus Firth, Anthony Davies, John Gardener, Paul Burton, Jan Newman, Anthony Gregorowski, Jeremy Wiley, Kevin Lennett, Gareth Ackerman, Arthur Mngxekeza, Martin Crawford, Guy Lloyd-Roberts, Christopher Austin, Connor Whiting, John Falconer, Philip Wheeler, Graham Welham, Jeremy Lawrence, Dugald Robertson, Anton Taylor, Nicky Bicket, Delre O'Rourke.

Apologies: John Langford, Brian Barends, Gavin Watson, Nick Taylor, Peter Jeffery, Christopher Gregorowski, Douglas Green, Cameron Boustead, John Hueton, John Dobson, Reg Hands, Richard Coke, Johannes Hofmeyr, Adam Pike, Michael Hyde, John Blackman, Louw Toerien, Alan Bamford, Anthony Lister, Moshe Apleni, Guy Lanfear.

Notice convening the Meeting: In terms of Section 10.3 of the Constitution, the Chairman read the notice convening the meeting and confirmed that it had been published in the December edition of the magazine. In terms of Section 10.6 he confirmed that there were more than fifteen members and four committee members present, the meeting was thus quorate. He declared the meeting duly and properly constituted.

The Chairman asked Reverend Terry Wilke to open the proceedings with a prayer.

The Chairman welcomed all present. He requested that Reverend Terry Wilke read out the names of ODs who had died since the previous AGM. The names were read out and the ODs present stood in their memory.

Minutes of the AGM of 12 March 2014: The Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting, having been approved by the Committee and published in the June 2014 magazine and on the OD Union website, were taken as read.

Matters Arising: The Chairman asked whether there were any matters arising. There were none.

THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Brian Robertson delivered the Chairman's Report:

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the OD Union Committee to present the 119th OD Union Annual Report.

This report catalogues the significant events that occurred during the course of 2014. There are many others recorded in our quarterly magazine, our weekly newsletter, our Facebook page and on our website under 'News'.

The activities recorded in this report were undertaken in pursuit of achieving the Union's mission.

To give context to this report, it is important to remind ourselves of what our mission is; *“The mission of the Union is to bring together members of the Union, to keep them in touch with Bishops and the present students, to promote the interest and welfare of Bishops and to establish and administer a fund to provide financial assistance for the descendants of present and past members of the Union (hereinafter referred to as “ODs”) to be educated at Bishops.”*

As was the format of previous reports, this report is presented under the headings of the four objectives contained in the Mission.

Before I move onto the detailed report I think it important to place on record the matter involving the former OD Union Secretariat. The matter was dealt with at a Special General Meeting (SGM) called by the committee on the 31st July 2014 where ODs mandated the committee to follow a process of reconciliation between the Union and the former secretariat. This was achieved on the 1st of October 2014 where a joint agreement was signed by the parties. The minutes of the SGM and the agreement, along with Justice O'Regan's note on the matter, are all available at our offices and on our website. Following the successful resolution of this conflict we have been delighted to welcome the former secretariat back to a number of Bishops and OD Union functions. Accordingly, we regard the matter as having been successfully resolved and do not intend to revisit it.

1. TO BRING TOGETHER MEMBERS OF THE UNION

REUNIONS

The following classes held reunions during 2014:

- Class of 1954 (60 year), 7-9 March: Peter Steyn & Ian Brown
 - Class of 1989 (25 years), 7-9 March: Duncan de Groot
 - Class of 1974 (40 year), 7-9 March: James Gardener
 - Class of 1984 (30 year), 7-9 March: Paul Burton
 - Class of 1959 (55 year), 13-16 March: Chet Sainsbury
 - Class of 2004 (10 year), 29th August: Matt Douglas
 - Class of 1954 (60 year), 29th August: Rohan Voss
 - Class of 1994 (20 year), 12th December: James Durrant
 - Class of 2009 (5 year), Friday 29th August: Matt Hawinkels
- During the course of the year a number of classes met regularly for lunch at the OD Union Offices. These groups included Colin Boyes' 1965 group, Alan Ramsay and Syd Cullis' 1960 group, and Don Rowand's 1955 group. The class of 1979 meet annually for lunch on the Friday before the final Rondebosch rugby match. These informal gatherings are proving to be popular and we encourage ODs to do more of them. Now that we have our own premises, we plan to organise more of these functions including regular business breakfasts.

- **LONDON COCKTAIL PARTY:** held on the 23rd January 2014 at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. Newly appointed President Raymond Ackerman (1948) addressed the gathering.

- **OD DINNER:** held on Thursday 13th March 2014 at Kelvin Grove. This is a highlight of the OD Union calendar. Young OD representative on the OD Union committee, Anton Taylor (2005), was once again a most entertaining Master of Ceremonies. Guest speaker, Thabang Skwambane's (1993), address on identity and the challenge of change was informative, thought-provoking and relevant to us as an organisation. When we ask the question, "Who am I?" we go to the source of our identity. When someone says "I am an Old Diocesan", it will have different meanings to different ODs. Thabang explored this and asked that we have an inclusive identity based on values of excellence (not elitism), of mutual respect and humility as well as a sense of responsibility to impact positively on our communities and society. This is an issue your committee is currently exploring in our strategy session.

- **FOUNDERS DAY:** held on Friday 14th March. At the Founders Day Chapel Service, the OD Union Chairman addressed the school on the topic "Man is above all a spiritual being." A copy of this address can be found on the OD Union website under 'News'.

- Shooting: Phil Calothi's (1968) team of ODs won the Sir Wilfred Robinson Trophy by 40 points.

- Cricket: 1st X1 captained by Andy Gilder (2001) drew (251/7 – school 121/9)

- 2nd X1 captained by Craig McKenzie (2006) won, as did the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th X1s. Such is the interest in cricket that we will be looking to field eight teams in future years.

- Other activities in which ODs participated included the Avenue Mile, water polo, debating, tennis and basketball.

- **STARLIGHT CLASSICS & CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** The Starlight Classics concert was held once again on the 1ST of March at Vergelegen in Somerset West. Richard Cock (1967) kindly provided the OD Union with an enclosure for fifty guests. The OD Union purchased the tickets and resold them to ODs who have previously attended. Later in the year, Christmas Carols with Richard Cock was held on the 16th of December in the Memorial Chapel. It was a wonderful evening, with an excellent atmosphere and a full Chapel. Wines at interval were donated by Brian Robertson of Avondale Estate and the mince-pies by Jonathan Ackerman (1984) of Pick n Pay. The collection is donated to the OD Union Bursary fund and was generously "topped-up" by Richard to an amount of R10 000.

- **TULLYALLEN TROPHY:** The inaugural event took place on Thursday 6th February in 2014. The purpose of the event is to create an event particularly for young ODs. The event is held early in the year during orientation week to attract ODs who have recently left Bishops. The second objective is to build on our positive relationship with our traditional rivals RBHSOB. The ODs lost the inaugural event and won the second convincingly.

- **OD v OA SUNDAY:** held on Sunday 15th March. Cricket fanatic Greg Boyes (1995) organised a competitive team that went down narrowly to the Old Andreans. A spit-braai was held at the Oaks Pavilion for the ODs and their guests.

- **GEOFF BRYANT CRICKET MATCH:** held on the 5TH April at the Johannesburg Country Club. Organised by Andrew Eaton (1992).

- **OD LONDON LUNCH:** held on the 23rd April at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. The guest speaker David Walsh spoke about the role played by private schools (including Bishops) in the First World War.
- **OD “INTERHOUSE” 7s:** held on Thursday 23rd September at Lutgensvale. The event is based on the traditional Interhouse 7s with a league phase. The two teams topping the league then play one another in the final. Founders House successfully defended their title and are now unbeaten since the inception of the tournament. Anton Taylor and Dugald Robertson organised the event with assistance from Angus Firth (1984) and Nick Durrant (1991). Shaun Cowell (2005) kindly provided the music whilst Anton Taylor and Dugald Robertson were the Masters of Ceremony.
- **OD VS SCHOOL HOCKEY:** held on Thursday 23rd September. In a high scoring match the ODs lost 5-4 to the 1st X1. Laurie Gardener (1974) and Nick Olds (2009) have been instrumental in organising a number of hockey fixtures for ODs against our traditional Southern Suburb rivals. These matches take place after the main hockey fixtures on a Friday evening and are well attended. Currently the standard of hockey at Bishops is excellent and the quality of these matches are of a very high standard.
- **OD BOLAND FUNCTION:** organised by Michael Foxcroft (2011) and Martin Versveld Jnr (2010). This event was very popular with the ODs currently studying at Stellenbosch University. Held at the Brampton Wine Bar in Stellenbosch, over fifty ODs attended. Anton Taylor explained the importance and benefits of students being involved in the OD Union.
- **OD LONDON DINNER:** held on the 27th June at the RAF Club in Piccadilly. Branch Secretary Nicky Bicket (1973) welcomed some 100 ODs and their partners. After watching a video of their old school, the youngest OD present, Joe Kahn (2013), said Grace followed by Steve Hofmeyr QC (1973) who read the lament commemorating the 112 ODs who had given their lives in World war One. President Raymond Ackerman spoke on behalf of the OD Union before Guest Speaker and Principal Guy Pearson addressed ODs on the current state of Bishops – which ODs agreed is very impressive indeed.
- **LONDON OD CHRISTMAS DRINKS:** held at the House of Lords on the 12th December. ODs gathered were given a guided tour of the House of Lords followed by an address by Lord Anthony St John (1974).
- **WALKER CUP:** the 32nd Walker Cup was held at Royal Cape on the 2nd March. For the first time in many years the ODs won by 18.5 - 7.5. Thanks go to Brian de Kock (1952 - Vice-President) and Brian Barends (1945) for organising this event.
- **OLD QUAD GOLF DAY:** held on Friday 26th September at Royal Cape Golf Club. The ODs were joint winners with WBHSOB. We now hold both golf trophies.
- **OD STAFF FUNCTION:** held on Thursday 16th October at the OD Union Offices. Section 7.6 of our constitution makes provision for members of Bishops staff with ten years' service to become honorary members of the OD Union. This function provides an opportunity for us to welcome them to the OD Union as well as to provide them with updates regarding the activities of the Union.

• **OD PATRON, PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT FUNCTION:** held on Thursday 4th December this event is held after our final committee meeting for the year and is the final event of the year for the OD Union Committee. The Chairman thanked the office bearers for their advice and support during the year.

2. TO KEEP MEMBERS IN TOUCH WITH BISHOPS AND THE PRESENT STUDENTS

In 2014 we kept ODs connected with one another and with the school in the following ways:

• **MAGAZINE:** The Old Diocesan section appears at the back of the quarterly Bishops Magazine. The OD section is compiled by Office Administrator, Delré O'Rourke, with support from the Editor, Rose Wilke. The format has been simplified with fewer headings: Roll of Honour, Notes from OD Union Office, Social Register (reunions, visitors, births, engagements, marriages), Obituaries, News of ODs, and Museum & Archives. We have also included more pictures and included a number of music, art and drama articles.

The advent of the internet and digital media have provided us with a number of new opportunities. Notably, we receive information from around the world on a constant basis, information that we are able to relay to our members rapidly. This means that the purpose of the magazine as an historical record and a conduit for keeping ODs in contact with one another and the school can be reviewed and supplemented with electronic versions and weekly newsletters. The art of assembling and disseminating information, keeping our members informed without overloading them with information, is a delicate one, which we are constantly reviewing.

One of the ironies of the postal strike was that ODs received the December 2014 digital version of the magazine before their September one arrived in the post.

The committee is aware that the rapid growth in digital media can be unnerving and whilst we constantly measure ourselves against our ability to achieve our mission, we try to ensure that any changes are done in a sensitive and responsible manner.

• **ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE MAGAZINE:** this version has not yet been perfected and is in the process of being improved upon. The benefit is that one receives it weeks, and in some instances months, before the posted version making the news immediate and relevant. The second benefit is that it saves the OD Union vast sums of money on postage. Money (in excess of R400, 000) which could be redirected to the bursary fund.

• **WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:** since July 2014 we have been distributing a weekly newsletter. The reason is to use technology to assimilate relevant information timeously. The newsletter contains information forwarded to us from ODs which we then share. This has started a dialogue with ODs worldwide as well as connected a number of ODs who had lost contact. It has also helped improve our database. An example of just how successful the newsletter has been is encapsulated in the correspondence from a senior OD who no longer buys the newspaper. He read about the passing and details regarding the funeral of a former classmate and was able to attend the funeral and visit the family who are longstanding

friends. We are also able to provide information regarding activities at the school – sports events, cultural events and more. The newsletter is our most effective way of achieving much of our mission.

- **WEBSITE:** we are continually looking at ways to improve the website which is currently not as user-friendly or useful as we would like it to be. We are currently looking at ways we can link the website to LinkedIn and create functional groups for ODs. This, along with a directory, would be most useful.

- **SOCIAL MEDIA (INCLUDING TWITTER AND FACEBOOK):** it was comforting to hear the comments of an OD currently doing an internship in the Bishops marketing department. He was of the opinion that our Facebook page is one of the most active and useful of all the academic institutions he had researched. ODs are encouraged to “like” these pages in order to receive OD Union news, photographs and graphics swiftly and conveniently.

- **ODs INTERACTING WITH CURRENT STUDENTS:** During the course of the year many ODs have kindly offered to address the boys. During 2014 President Raymond Ackerman, Professor Haroon Borat (2004), David Grier (1977), Professor Tim Noakes (1966), Peter Steyn (1954), Brindley Uytenbogaardt (1996), James Selfe (1972) and Dr Will Bolus (1982) addressed various societies. Whilst a number of ODs were involved in assisting with the Bishops Pops and the Christmas Carols.

3. TO PROMOTE THE INTEREST AND WELFARE OF BISHOPS:

This loosely worded objective is sufficiently broad to render it open to interpretation depending on what one perceives to be in the best interests and welfare of Bishops. For who is the arbiter as to what is in the best interests and welfare of Bishops? Many of the issues are subjective and personal: cadets/ no cadets, corporal punishment/no corporal punishment, football/no football, prefects/leaders, newboys/first-years and many more issues. The broad church of ODs consisting of different ages, different races, languages, cultures and experiences will have a wide range of responses to any number of issues affecting Bishops. This is good and healthy, yet we need to ensure that the wide variety of thoughts are channelled in a positive and effective manner to the benefit of the OD Union and Bishops.

I referred earlier to a matter affecting the OD Union. As a result of events that culminated in the Special General Meeting last year, the committee have given a lot of thought to how we can prevent such a situation from happening again. It simply must not, as it is in no-one's interest or welfare. In order to ensure that the situation does not happen again, we have taken the following steps (Van Zyl Slabbert once said that it is one of South Africa's least endearing traits that we believe that once we have apportioned blame, we've solved the matter, whilst the real challenge of leadership is to address the matter and ensure that it does not happen again). To this end we have established a dispute resolution procedure which enables disputes to be managed in a progressive and structured manner, swiftly and without incurring great costs. Secondly we have worked closely with the school to establish a process to deal with any grievances relating to their time at school, which ODs may raise in the future. To this end, the Bishops Cares programme has been drafted by professionals with experience in such matters. Should a similar incident arise in the future, I am confident that the school is well prepared to handle it. This programme sets in place processes that care for potential past problems and prevent current ones.

If there is one thing this committee is convinced of, it is that Bishops 2015 is a far wiser, stronger, skilled and caring environment.

This matter was a real test of how various arms of Bishops would react under pressure and I am pleased to say that our relationship with the school is stronger than ever. Much of this is due to the leadership of the Principal, Mr Guy Pearson, who has had an extremely positive and inclusive approach to the OD Union. Thank you sir.

Likewise our relationship with the College Council is as strong as I recall it in recent years. In 2009 I was involved with my first strategic planning session. At this stage the committee felt that ODs were under-represented on Council. We had the OD Union Chairman as an observer and one OD as a representative. We have worked at increasing our representation and currently our presence on Council is the strongest it has been in recent years with 5 ODs serving as councillors. I have always maintained that you cannot have a prosperous OD Union and an impoverished school. Likewise you cannot have a prosperous school without the support of a committed and supportive OD Union. We are fortunate that both are vibrant, active, effective and efficient bodies, which is a credit to this great institution. At the same time we realise that there is what former President John Arenhold termed “an invisible boundary” that is to be respected by both parties. These are determined by the various constitutions. We are acutely aware of them and will continue to act in the best interests of the OD Union and Bishops, in accordance with our constitution. A special mention must be made of Chairman of Council Mike Bosman, he has led Bishops firmly with grace and dignity through this most difficult period.

Another example of just how well these various bodies are able to interact and perform has come in the form of our joint project with the school. Some five years ago the school approached us needing more space for the school shop, the travel agency and most importantly the sanatorium where it wanted to house doctors’ consulting room with a physiotherapist, x-ray facilities and a 24 hour nursing service for the boys. The school also wanted to get rid of the pre-fabs that housed the Development Office. At this stage we had been looking at properties on the periphery of the school to establish a home for ODs as our location in the school made it increasingly difficult to host events where alcohol is served. The new liquor laws relating to schools made it very difficult for us to hold events where alcohol is served in the centre of the school. With this in mind, and the fact that investment markets had run hard, it seemed sensible to take some of the gains and invest them in new facilities for the Union that were also able to generate a revenue stream in perpetuity by creating world class facilities that can be used by the Union, as well as being hired out. We consulted the constitution and in particular S4.5.7.2 which states that “the union has the specific powers to provide school buildings or equipment on land owned... by a school”. A strategy was developed and is currently being implemented, as all of you present today are able to see. Once we have the facilities fully functioning, our marketing strategy promoting the venue will be implemented.

What we intend (amongst other events) is to have monthly business breakfasts with guest speakers, a wine appreciation society which gives our forty-seven wine producers the opportunity to showcase their wares, sherry evenings and book clubs where ODs can launch books, an investors club and a conference facility which is on a par with the best in Cape Town.

Our new memorabilia range, which has been standardised and the quality improved will be launched shortly. This includes striped blazer material which we have managed to source

from a small mill in Scotland. This building has been five years in the planning and I suspect 165 years in the waiting and this committee is extremely excited about all the possibilities that exist for us to offer a better service to ODs.

4. TO ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A FUND TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS OF THE UNION (HERINAFTER REFERED TO AS ODS) TO BE EDUCATED AT BISHOPS:

The Chairman of the OD Union Committee represents the OD Union on the Scholarship and Bursaries Committee. His function is to ensure that the OD Union Bursary policy is implemented.

The Bursary Fund, which is invested separately and banked separately to the OD Union Endowment Fund currently stands at an amount of over R11 million.

In 2014 we allocated an amount of R500 000 for bursaries, this allowed us to assist thirty-five sons of ODs who would not otherwise have been able to attend Bishops following in their father's footsteps. As the numbers of ODs requiring assistance increases, so too it is becoming necessary for us to actively look for funding on behalf of these ODs.

ODs considering making a request for assistance from the Bursary Fund must please consult the OD Union website for information.

DONATIONS:

During the past year the OD Union received donations from the following donors, for which we are very grateful:

- The Wilmott Trust
- David Kirkness
- Craig Howie
- Class of 1955
- Pallet Supply Company
- Tim Allsop
- The Noel Noble Trust

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all of you have taken the time and made the effort to attend this evening. In a sense it makes it worthwhile for us volunteers to report back on and share the many activities that we are involved in, in an endeavour to serve our members better.

On that note I would like to thank your committee in particular, for the hard work and sacrifices they made during 2014. I am quite sure that at the start of the year none of them expected the year to be quite so difficult and time consuming. In particular the new members, Jonathan Steytler and Simon Peile who responded to our advertisement to fill Dave Burton's Legal portfolio and Jan Newman's Finance portfolio have had to deal with a matter that originated in 2011. I should also mention our President who was inadvertently drawn into a matter which we believed had been resolved well over two years before he took office. His

willingness to engage positively and to support the Union has been valuable and greatly appreciated.

The OD Union is extremely fortunate to be able to draw on men of the calibre of this committee who willingly and freely volunteer to serve you.

I don't think ODs can even begin to imagine just how difficult it is to get people to serve on this committee. When a vacancy arises, we draft a job description and advertise the post. We very rarely, if ever, get a response. We were encouraged with our last two positions where for the legal portfolio we received two responses and for the financial one three. The CVs are then circulated among committee members, we debate the various merits before settling on the most appropriate candidate. I am aware that there has been criticism that a number of the committee members were my own contemporaries at school (for the record there are three members out of twelve who matriculated along with me in 1979). That should actually not be a surprise. One finds that there is a narrow window of opportunity where ODs are at stage of their careers where they have the experience and expertise to be valuable to the committee, whilst also having sons at or about to join the school, which makes them more willing to contribute and make the sacrifices required to serve on the committee. Often, once their children leave, they are lost to us again.

We continuously seek fresh input into the committee and I would beseech each one of you that believes that he has a contribution to make to consider, when a vacancy arises, to join the committee or one of our sub-committees and serve the Union.

This school encourages and prepares men to lead, it also encourages them to serve. The best of them, at the top of their professional careers, serve you on this committee. And I want to acknowledge them for that this evening.

Thank you for affording us the privilege of serving you.

I hereby propose the adoption of the 2015 Chairman's Report.

Proposed: Brian Robertson

Seconded: Patrick Henderson.

The Chairman's Report was unanimously approved.

The Chairman asked for any questions or comments relating to his report.

Anthony Davies commented that despite the agreement mediated by Judge O'Regan and signed by the Hamilton-Smith's and the OD Union Committee representatives in October 2014, he was of the opinion that there were a number of outstanding issues he wished to highlight. He requested that he be allowed to read a statement prepared on behalf of a group calling themselves the "Concerned ODs".

Gareth Ackerman objected to the reading of the statement on the basis that the matter had been resolved. Furthermore he commented that the Chairman had referred to the matter as part of his report stating that as the matter had been dealt with in accordance with the mandate given to the committee at the Special General Meeting, and specifically stated that

he was not going to revisit it. The report had been proposed, seconded and unanimously approved. The Chairman was thus not in a position to reopen the matter.

Bovain Macnab suggested that Anthony Davies be allowed to read out his statement.

Julian Rumbelow commented that in the spirit of reconciliation, it would be a good idea to hear what Anthony Davies had to say.

Jonathan Steyler commented that in terms of the constitution, the Chairman is obliged to hear any matter that is properly raised and defined prior to the meeting. He felt that a matter of this nature should have been placed on the agenda prior to the meeting so that attendees could prepare themselves to make informed decisions. As a signatory to the reconciliation agreement he felt no purpose would be served by an individual who was not party to the agreement speaking on behalf of the parties.

Philip Wheeler commented that the matter was unfortunate but that it had been dealt with and was dirty water under the bridge.

The Chairman commented that as there were a number of ODs present expressing conflicting opinions he was happy to be led by the interests of the majority of ODs present and put the matter to the vote.

The motion before the meeting was as follows:

That Anthony Davies be allowed to read a prepared statement relating to the events culminating in a joint agreement signed by the OD Union Committee representatives and the Hamilton-Smiths.

The Chairman asked all those in support of the motion to raise their right hand. **There were 12 votes in support of the motion.**

The Chairman then asked all those opposed to the motion to raise their right hand. **There were 28 votes opposed to the motion.**

There was one abstention.

Anthony Davies left the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

John Macey presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Guy Lanfear.

In the year to 31 December 2013, the OD Union Fund and Bursary Fund investment strategy was aligned to that of the school and administered by the school investment committee, as we reported to members last year. All investments were disposed of and reinvested as determined by the school investment committee, with the reporting responsibility taken over by Sygnia on a pro bono basis.

As a result there is no longer separate reporting between interest, dividends and management fees. Full performance is reported in the realised and unrealised gains at R 4 887 617 (before

the donation to the school of R 3.25 million) against R 2 734 953 in 2013, a significant improvement across the two funds combined.

Looking at the income statement, the loss on clothing and colours is in line with budget, resulting from the ties given to school leavers each year as well as the purchase of Sevens Tournament rugby jerseys in 2014. These will be reused but are not reflected in stock. A number of memorabilia items ordered, in particular replica OD Rugby jerseys, had not been popular and would need to be written off.

The loss on functions was similar to 2013, although the committee would prefer not to view this as a loss. Rather in reality it being an expense budgeted for as a core objective of the OD Union is to bring together its members throughout the world.

With reference to the OD Union expenses excluding the donation to the school, these increased by approximately 90% over 2013, mainly due to the legal fees associated with, and the settlements awarded to, Mr and Mrs Hamilton-Smith.

The OD Union awarded bursaries of some R 347 000 to those applicants who met the requirements of the application criteria, almost exactly the same as in the prior year.

Life membership fees received were also within a few hundred rands of those received in 2013.

Of significance in these financial statements is the donation to the school of R 3.25 m which was made in respect of the new OD Union building "The Mitre". This is the building that the school is building for The OD Union to occupy and which forms part of the new Woodlands Pavilion complex. In return, the school has agreed to accommodate the OD Union on their premises without charge, in perpetuity - trusting that Bishops will be around that long! We have further budgeted an additional R 2.2 m to decorate and fit out the new premises. The OD Union investment funds have performed extremely well over the past decade and it made sense to realise some of these gains to the benefit of all ODs by creating a home for them at Bishops.

As a result of the foregoing, the OD Union Fund is at a considerably lower level than members have seen in the past few years, and will reduce further during 2015, albeit well spent, we believe, as we move during the 2015 year to our new premises.

Proposed: John Macey

Seconded: Jeremy Wiley

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Comments:

Nicky Bicket commented that as the building was donated as a gift to school and there is no lease, it should be noted as such.

Jonathan Steytler responded that the OD Union opted not to draft a complicated lease, rather it received written confirmation that the OD Union had donated the building to the school and in return would be entitled to occupy the building indefinitely.

Chairman of Council Mike Bosman thanked the OD Union on behalf of the school and Council for the donation of building. He believed the offices and the museum will be a building the OD Union and ODs can be very proud.

INVESTMENT PORTFOLIOS

The representative for the Finance portfolio on the committee, Simon Peile, presented the Finance Report.

In last year's report I reported that during 2013 decisions relating to the investment strategy to be followed in respect of the investment portfolios of the OD Union had been delegated to the school's investment committee, in so far as the investment strategy followed for the Union's assets would match as closely as possible the strategy followed by the School. The school's investment strategy is decided upon by the school's investment committee, which includes amongst others, a number of ODs who hold senior positions in the South African asset management industry. The two bodies' assets are kept separate, with the underlying units registered in the names of each body.

The underlying assets are invested in portfolios managed by various asset management companies selected by the school's investment committee. Sygnia Asset Management provides investment administration services to both the school and the Union at no cost to either body.

The Union's current long term investment strategy is to hold a high allocation to equities and within equities a high allocation to offshore equities. The overall strategy is currently:

South African Equities	23%
Foreign Equities	56%
South African Fixed Interest	16%
South African Money Market	5%

During 2014 the Union's long term investment strategy achieved a return of 12.7% net of all fees, which was a pleasing return.

In addition, where the committee expects to disinvest large amounts in the near future, these assets are transferred to a money market account. At the start of 2014 we held R3.25 million in the Investec Money Market Fund in anticipation of paying this over to the school in respect of the Union's contribution to the Woodlands Pavilion. At the end of 2014 we held R1 million, in anticipation of payments towards the fitting out of the Union's new premises, and a further R 1 million was transferred during February 2015.

One advantage of Sygnia's investment administration is that we now unitise the different investment strategies, which allows us to accurately track the Bursary Fund and the general OD Union assets accurately.

At the end of 2014 the values of the investment portfolios held by the Union were:

ODU Bursary Fund	R 11 029 520.77
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ODU General Fund (Long Term Strategy)	R 7 010 356.56
ODU General Fund (Money Market)	R 1 080 505.92
	R 19 120 383.25

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The Committee recommends that we maintain the services of current unpaid external auditor, namely Martin Luyt of Luyt, Proudfoot and Associates.

In terms of Section 10.5.2 of the constitution, there are currently no vacancies on the OD Union Committee.

In terms of Section 10.5.4 of the constitution, the committee recommends that the Patron Michael Watermeyer continue in his current position. We are delighted that he has agreed to do so.

In terms of Section 10.5.3 of the constitution, the committee recommends that the President Raymond Ackerman continue in his current position. We are delighted that he has agreed to do so.

In terms of Section 10.5.5 pertaining to the election of Vice Presidents: John Arenhold proposed that Brian Barends be elected as Vice President for services to the ODU and the school.

Brian has served the OD Union since 1980. He started and continues to organise the Walker Cup.

The proposal was accepted by the committee and unanimously approved by fellow ODs at the meeting and Brian Barends was elected as an honorary Vice President for life.

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Guy Pearson, Principal of Bishops, gave the Principal's report:

President, Raymond Ackerman; Patron, Michael Watermeyer; Honorary Vice-Presidents; Chairman of Council, Mike Bosman; Chairman of the OD Union, Brian Robertson and gentlemen; it is my real pleasure to present a report of the school for the past 12 months.

As an introduction it is worth reminding ODs of how the leadership of Bishops is structured. I am the Principal and have direct responsibility for the College and oversight of the Prep and Pre-Prep. This is an oversight function only as Greg Brown does a superb job in running the Prep. He is assisted by Sharlene Groom who looks after the Pre-Prep. I chair a whole-School Executive team consisting of myself; the Business Manager Sean King; Deputy Principal of the College, Vernon Wood; and Head of Prep, Greg Brown. We meet each week to discuss overall strategic matters which affect the whole school. Greg and I then each have our own

Executive Committees who are responsible for day to day matters in the College and the Prep.

It has been a wonderful year for Bishops with our boys achieving exceptional results in a wide range of activities. We started the New Year with the outstanding news of our matric results of 2014. The results were certainly the best achieved over the last 10 years, the highlights were the following:

- 149 boys wrote the exam, 148 (99, 3%) achieved a Bachelor's pass and 1 boy a Diploma pass.
- There were 522 subject distinctions, an average of 3.5 distinctions per candidate.
- 16% of all subject results were over 90%.
- 48% of all subject results were above 80%.
- There were 59 "A" aggregates, (39.6% of the class).
- The top student was Daniel Mesham with 8 distinctions and an aggregate of 95.7%.
- Thaku Mtombeni achieved 100% for Mathematics.
- The averages for Mathematics, Mathematics Lit, History, Accounting, Economics, Art and Music all exceeded 80%.
- 9 distinctions were achieved by both Nicholas Hyslop and Warren Black.
- 8 distinctions were achieved by each of Andrew Bodenstein, Ishaan Dawray, Daniel Mesham, Rahul Naidoo, Muhammed Razzak, Tariq Salie, Murray McKechnie, Lood van Niekerk and Matthew van Niekerk.

At the Western Cape Education Department awards ceremony Bishops were placed 2nd overall in the Province, runners up to Herschel. Bishops was the top performing boys' school. Daniel Mesham was placed 2nd in the Province, a truly superb achievement. Thaku Mtombeni received a special award for achieving 100% for Mathematics.

It is also pleasing to report that 3 of our Matric Boys of 2014 have been accepted at so-called "ivy league" universities in the US; Thomas Orten (Stanford), Rahul Naidoo (Harvard), Pule Nkopane (Dartmouth).

It was another outstanding year for the school on the Cultural front with our 35 societies extremely active. It is worth noting that 475 out of the 760 boys in the College participate in music while our debating club with a membership of over 100 boys is the largest in the country. Last year saw the extremely successful production of the Great Gatsby followed by our fantastic Eisteddfod at the end of the second term. It was also the year of Classic Pops in the third quarter at the City Hall and the standard of performance was truly exceptional.

Sport remains integral to the life of boys at Bishops and there is no doubt that sport in the Western Cape across all disciplines is extremely strong and competitive. I am pleased that we are more than holding our own while still keeping the important educational values which sport promotes as the core of our philosophy.

Our beautiful Memorial Chapel plays a central in the life of Bishops boys.

The changes to the pupil leadership structures and senior/junior relationships are now well bedded down and have certainly added to a far more positive environment with an emphasis on mutual and appropriate respect between boys of all ages.

How does one judge the success and the state of health of a school? One measure is the demand for places and I am pleased to report that applications to Bishops remain extremely strong. There are two main entry points to the school at Grade R, in other words 5 years old, and at grade 8 when boys turn 14. At Grade R we had in excess of 400 applicants for 70 places available and at grade 8 we had 250 applicants for the 75 places available after accepting the boys from the Prep School. Many of these available places are taken up by boys with strong connections to the school i.e. sons of ODs and/or siblings. This leaves less than 50 places available for the rest of the pool - a very challenging situation for us to manage!

I am pleased that a number of major capital projects have been undertaken and completed over the past few years, these have been reported on before but the significant ones over the past 12 months have been:

The total revamp and upgrade of the Molteno Library, in memory of the late James McGregor. This is now a world-class facility and I urge you to visit it at your convenience. You will see as you enter the gates the magnificent new Woodlands Pavilion, which is due for completion very shortly. The official opening takes place on 8th May. The hockey astro has been upgraded to a water-based facility while we have a magnificent new hockey pavilion. The remainder of the building will house the archives, the museum and the old boy offices and entertainment facilities. This will become an iconic building and a welcome addition to the already magnificent eclectic mix of architecture on our campus.

It is important that the school continues to benchmark itself in numerous different ways and last year we participated in the Independent Quality Assurance Agency process, a prerequisite of our membership of ISASA. Extensive satisfaction surveys were carried out with parents, boys and staff and the results were overwhelmingly positive and affirming. For example, 98% of the boys said that they were happy at school, 100% said they respected their teachers, 98% agreed with the statement that the school has high standards academically, while 98% said they were proud to be at Bishops. The parents agree; 98% of them saying their child was happy at school, while 100% of parents agreed that the school has high standards culturally. All results were well above the national norms for independent schools.

It is worth noting that in her closing comments, the mentor Dr Elizabeth Fullard, had the following to say:

“Bishops is a school that, at first glance, would seem to have everything - and it probably has, although it was acknowledged that there is always room for improvement! The grounds are magnificent and well maintained, as are the various buildings and other facilities.

The boys themselves were utterly charming and it is a great pleasure to encounter such well-mannered young gentlemen.

It would be difficult not to be impressed by a school with the stature of Bishops and the boys that have the privilege of receiving their schooling at this prestigious institution are fortunate indeed. What makes the school what it is, is the school community of staff, learners and parents and what each contributes to the reputation that Bishops enjoys in the education world.”

Bishops is far from perfect though and the IQAA process did identify certain aspects which are part of the management team’s priorities for this year.

So what are the challenges? There is no doubt, and I say this with great sensitivity, that from my own experience Bishops is way behind comparable schools in the country when it comes to endowment; endowment for scholarships and bursaries and for capital projects. I believe that raising substantial sums of money needs to be a priority for the school if we are to remain competitive, with world-class facilities and most importantly in being able to admit the type of boys to the school that have always made up the core of Bishops. I am pleased that a major focus of the Chairman of Council is to resuscitate the Trust, which should be ultimately the driving force in raising funds for Bishops. There is a false perception in the broader community that Bishops has limitless financial resources.

In closing, Mr President, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your guidance and support in what has at times been a difficult year for Bishops. There is no doubt that the experiences of the past year have left the school stronger and I am confident that we are well-equipped to face the challenges of the dynamic and changing environment in which we find ourselves.

Pro Fide et Patria. Thank you.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked if there were any matters ODs wishes to raise under Any Other Business.

Anthony Davies returned to the meeting.

Anthony Davies requested that he be allowed to present copies of his report to the Chairman and that once the Chairman had read it he would like to meet with him. The Chairman accepted the copy and agreed to meet with him.

John Koster commented that he was fiercely proud of Bishops, the OD Union and the Committee in the way it had handled the difficult conflict during 2014. He felt their actions were in keeping with the great tradition of forgiveness and reconciliation exemplified by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the late Nelson Mandela. He was sure all reasonable ODs supported the reconciliation agreement signed by the Committee and the Hamilton-Smiths.

Paul Burton echoed John Koster' sentiments and commented that for the sake of Bishops, ODs everywhere, the current boys, staff and parents, this matter needed to be regarded as closed. He felt strongly that as ODs we owe Guy Pearson and the school an apology for the embarrassment caused. Furthermore he commented that as an agreement had been reached we should honour this, all of us including a group who purport to speak on behalf of ODs whilst having no clear constituency nor mandate, and move forward. We owe this much to ourselves as ODs and Bishops.

Alan Ramsay thanked Brian Robertson and the committee for all the time and effort that they had put into this past year. It was much appreciated by ODs.

The 119th Annual General Meeting of the OD Union closed at 7:05pm.