

## **Chairman's Report - AGM 2017**

Mr President Sir Tim Rice, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to have the honour to address you with my third report for The Old Lancing Club.

Last year I reported that the Club was in discussion with the College to form a more inclusive working relationship together. In October we had a core of a good deal and with the basis for various areas agreed we were able to put this to the Committee for consideration before ratification at this AGM.

This was not easy and above all we knew that we had to balance the independence and strength of the Club with that of working well with College whilst not being absorbed.

I wrote to all Club Members in November with full details, this was included in The Club magazine and was also posted on the Club website so it is fair to say that all members have been well informed of our progress and which is why I do not intend to read it all out in detail again now.

### **Communications**

The communication team continued with a slightly diminished team of John Hall, Anthony Eland, Angus Ross and our editor John Clifford. The communication strategy continued and included three hard copy of The Club Reviews, three E-letters a year, and reminder emails in the weeks leading up to each event. The Club Review will now appear within the College publication of The Quad.

The Club Facebook site continues to be popular and is a good medium to advertise and remind of OL events quickly.

We still produce a Club flyer which goes out to parents of new pupils and directly to new OLs. This is initially sent out to all parents promoting the Club. When a pupil leaves Lancing they also receive a Flyer together with a gift.

We are still keen to welcome a new Communication coordinator to the team and anyone with the passion and skill would be most welcome to join us. The Communications Coordinator is an Officer of the Club.

### **Events**

Many thanks must go to Neesha Gopal who runs the Events with vigour and enthusiasm and is always a welcome and friendly face to greet our guests.

The events team are continuing with the aim to make all events focussed and well affordable, if not free, as the Summer Party that follows this AGM will be. Various events were arranged directly by the team through the past year.

They started with the Summer Party here last year which again had Winter weather.

Young OLs party on the Tattershall Castle boat in September. This was a brilliant event blessed with superb weather and a good attendance. Both these parties were totally funded by the Club.

The Club Dinner last November in St James's Square was most enjoyable and affordable without denting the Club's funds too greatly.

Graham Robinson and Tom Robson together with Neesha Gopal arranged a well-attended Carol Service in London at Chelsea Old Church with Canon David Reindorp, OL, in December.

## **Finance**

Another hard-working team headed by David Rice with Telford Shute and Timothy Poole.

Nearly £9000 was given to the Sports Clubs to offset the costs of some great teams.

I reported last year that we had made various offers to the College to examine how we can best support children of OLs in the form of bursaries. The College explained that this was not easy but was eager to gain funds for its own Transformational Bursary which would fund children for an underprivileged background to come to Lancing as pupils. There will be proposal to support this later in the meeting.

## **Sports**

The sports teams have continued with both an active time in both competition and socially and our thanks to Nick Evans who as a co-opted member of the committee liaises between all the sport organisers. We are sorry to be losing Nick from this role but I hope he will continue to exercise his right to attend Committee Meetings as a Vice-President. Stepping into Nick's shoes is Ross Gilbert who has had many years within the Golfing Club is ideally prepared as the OL Sports liaison officer.

The OL Club financially helps Sports Clubs and is keen to continue to do whenever possible.

Those very welcome funds are used entirely to help young OLs participate in their chosen sports. Good examples would be the help given to the LOBFC to help cover costs involved in travelling to Shrewsbury for a Dunn Cup quarter final, funds for the LOB Golfers in their marches at Deal in the Halford Hewitt and at Hunstanton in the Grafton Morrish and to the Lancing Rovers for their journey to Millfield in the Cricketer Trophy.

Fives, Shooting and Squash have also benefited from support and in all cases these OL sports are flourishing in what is now a highly competitive world.

The Football Club have enjoyed a tough but successful season and have high hopes for this coming season particularly with the addition of some of the young players who have recently left the College. The Cricketers of Lancing Rovers are, this very week, completing yet another series of matches at the College - something which has been happening for over 75 years.

In particular, I think our members would like to know that this season; the College now has a full England Cap in Mason Crane who played in the recent T20 series against the South Africans and also, Will Fazakerley, who left the College last July made his First Class debut with Leicestershire last week. Hats off to Raj Maru, Director of Cricket at the College.

Our Golfers now field a side with several very talented young players and the main problem is to hope that they do not turn Pro too early thus denying us of their talents!!

Squash has always been our most successful sport from the days in the 60/70's when we won the Londonderry Cup for many years in succession and now, with the support of the Club and the efforts of Tom Maberly, we feature consistently in the final stages of this prestigious Cup.

Although not playing in any competitive competitions, our Lady Hockey players and Netballers now play regular matches against the College as do the Hockey male OLs in their annual match against the College.

## **The Committee**

We have had four well attended committee meetings and an AGM representing a broad range of issues. The committee is hard work and it is only with people who are prepared to be active and creative that the club will progress.

I would like to thank all retiring members of the committee. Nick Parker, Renjie Chen who is stepping down after two years having got married and having a baby. Renjie used to be on the events team prior to the main committee and is keen to come back when time allows.

Tom Robson is also stepping down but I know it will be only a many of moments before he is back with us. Tom has been a hardworking and involved member and many of you will know him for his organization of the Choir for the Club carol service.

Thank you to all the committees, subcommittees and sports clubs for your work and involvement, and thank you to you, the members for showing up and offering support. I have had the pleasure of receiving some great expressions of gratitude and it is reassuring to know that we are heading in the right direction.

We do need your help on various committees and if you would like to be involved then please consider joining the Events or Communication team for a taster. Alternatively, a year as co-opted member on the main committee may get you hooked.

Mr President, I thank you for Chairing the AGM today and now may I please ask you to invite the meeting to accept my report.

Andrew Farquharson

Thursday 13 July 2017