



MOREANA

THE ST. THOMAS MORE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

WHO YOU CALLING OLD?

As this esteemed Association gets ready to enter its 16th year it's time to take stock and review whether we are keeping to the original intentions of our constitution.

The aims of the Association, as described in the constitution are:-

- A) To give an opportunity to former pupils and past members of staff of the school to meet up several times a year
- B) To distribute information between former pupils/past members of staff
- C) To provide an umbrella organisation for different activities/clubs
- D) To provide a way for former pupils/past members of staff to keep in touch with and support the current life of the school
- E) To continue and develop the tradition of the Old Boys' Reunion Mass

Clearly all five of these aims are continuing to be addressed by the annual events and activities of the Association, but there is an anomaly in the membership that is giving great concern

for the future development of the Association. Put simply it is the eras from which the membership is drawn!

As you will see from the list of members on the back page, the vast majority of members were at the school in the 1960s and 1970s and representation from the years after the 1980s is virtually nil.

It has been suggested that this may well be because the school was smaller and more intimate in the first twenty years of its existence and, as a result, past pupils from that era feel a greater sense of nostalgia for the place.

This may well be true and certainly makes sense, but it is the duty of the President, as highlighted in the inauguration, to *"support and nurture the development"* of the Association.

Consequently the Executive have spent quite a bit of time during the last year discussing this very issue.

Whilst the theory about intimacy certainly seems to hold water, by its very

nature such a theory also implies that a much bigger school offers a larger pool of potential "Old Boys" each year. Something in the region of at least 150 pupils leave every summer as a combination of Sixth Form and Year 11 leavers!

The very existence of the Sixth Form since the mid-1990s has added a completely different dimension to the pool of leavers both in terms of maturity and the addition of girls into the mix.

All of this has led the Executive to propose a radical change to the very name of the Association: At this year's Annual General Meeting they will be proposing that we change the name from St Thomas More Old Boys' Association to **ST THOMAS MORE ALUMNI**.

Whilst changing the name alone is not going to result in an immediate deluge of new membership applications, the Executive feel that it will address a number of image-related issues:-

- 1) Removing "Old" may help to address any perception that we're all old and decrepit,

just waiting to be carted off to a nursing home (remember that to an 18 year old 35 is considered "old")

- 2) Removing "Boys" may help to encourage more of the female ex-pupils to join
- 3) Using the term Alumni can certainly give the impression of being up-to-date since, bizarrely for such a new country, this Latin term is used in many American films and TV shows, especially those aimed at teenagers.

Of course the Executive are not relying solely on this tactic to increase membership and other initiatives are discussed elsewhere in this esteemed publication.

TONY ON TV!



Our very own Tony Cane, past member of the Executive, was interviewed on Channel 4 news as part of their coverage of the recent death of Lady Thatcher. Check-out the interview at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgsEgxsRcUg>

GOLD MEDAL PERFORMANCE BY OUR OLYMPIC REPS

A goodly number of members attended this year's Old Boys Dinner on Saturday 9th February and heard an extremely interesting talk by John Bowman and Kevin Thomas on their experiences as Olympic Games Makers last summer.



Those present included a selection of the usual suspects (especially from that esteemed vintage year 1977) together with a liberal sprinkling of new faces and some who'd not been for a while.

We were especially pleased to be able to welcome Head of Sixth Form Elsa Genovese who, although not a former pupil herself, is married to an Old Boy, has brother-in-laws who are Old Boys and whose father was Chairman of Governors. With her pedigree firmly established she renewed her invitation (detailed in the last issue of *Moreana*) to all Old Boys to assist Sixth Formers studying subjects in which our careers may be of relevance.



We are delighted to report that a number of those



present heeded the call and volunteered their services.

Assistant Head Teacher Matt Hardiman, who was Head Boy in the 1990s was also present and enjoyed himself so much that he left eager to spread the word to his friends!



As usual there was a veritable mountain of food and, once again, we enjoyed a number of rounds of the traditional inter-course bingo led, of course, by that stalwart John Cobbold. After many years of trying Ron Patchett finally managed to win a round, and David Milne was delighted to find that at least some of his drinks bill had been taken care of when he also won.

The highlight of the evening was the talk, complete with various video clips and delivered by the

dynamic duo resplendent in their Olympic uniforms.

Neither of them knew that the other had volunteered until they bumped into each other in a canteen during the games themselves. From that chance encounter came the idea to deliver a talk to members.

Their paths to becoming Games-Makers took completely different routes with John having applied way back in October 2010 and being assigned to the Anti-Doping Team as a chaperone. His first actual event was in March 2011—more than a year before the games opened—as the required training was somewhat intense.

John developed a very obvious respect for the athletes and their professionalism when being approached by him with the news that they were to be tested for drugs. As he explained—it could be quite a reality check for someone who has just won a gold medal to be told that they must now report for drugs testing.

Amidst all of the hustle and bustle behind the scenes a big man like John could sometimes find conditions a little cramped and he was somewhat perplexed on one occasion to be told that he had just inadvertently knocked over Princess Anne!

Kevin's involvement began a little later than John's when he decided to respond to an advert that he saw on the back of a bus while on his way to work.

He ended-up being assigned to Event Services in the Basketball Arena, which meant he could be working Back-of-House, Front-of-House and even outside the actual arena doing things such as checking tickets. His shifts would begin at 3pm and he very-much enjoyed his daily half-hour walk sampling the atmosphere from Stratford station through the Olympic Park to the 12,500-seat arena, where he would work until 1.00am the following morning!

The talk ended with an emotional video clip hosted by a choked-up Eddie Izard which featured many foreign visitors praising the work of the volunteers. It was very obvious that, had they not been there, the 2012 Olympic Games would not have run anywhere near as smoothly and efficiently as they did. To think that two of our members played some small part in that is a credit to them both.

The evening was considered a great success and generated £323 for Association funds.

IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

A few months ago our esteemed Membership Secretary, Liam Rand, was approached by an elderly parishioner at his church regarding a needy family at the school and she enquired as to whether this Association might be able to help.

Clearly that is not our mandate so Liam explained that we couldn't, but it got him thinking...*[always dangerous—Ed]*

Consequently the executive have been discussing the possibility of introducing a charitable function for the Association.

There are occasionally families with pupils at the school who, perhaps through no fault of their own, have fallen on hard times and, as a result, the pupil's education may suffer. For instance, a sudden redundancy just when you're asked to pay for the geography field course; or a desperately-needed new blazer when money is tight.

Clearly money does not solve all problems but there are occasions when it can temporarily help.

Having investigated official charity status the Executive have decided at this stage that it would be far too early to consider going down such a route (not least because it can involve costs).

Consequently at this year's AGM the Executive will be proposing that the Association

officially amends the constitution to create a small benevolent fund to be used for strictly defined purposes.

The plan calls for a set amount each year to be ring-fenced from Association funds.

A strict set of qualifying criteria will be created and requests for an award from the fund will be submitted by the school.

A specially convened committee consisting of the Executive AND at least one other member of the Association drawn from a predetermined list will meet to consider such submissions.

The concept will also allow for the association to award money from the fund to past pupils who meet the criteria.

This whole concept will allow the Old Boys' Association to create a lasting legacy for members of the school and its extended family.

NEW TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP TO BE PROPOSED

At this year's AGM two new types of membership of the Association are to be proposed by the Executive:-

- 1) Associate Membership will be free of charge and will be open to past pupils who are now members of staff
- 2) Full Time Education Membership will cost £5 and be open to those still studying

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—14th MAY

Notice is hereby given that this year's Annual General Meeting will take place in the school at 8pm on **Tuesday 14th May 2013**.

All members are welcome to attend.

As you will have read in other articles within this esteemed publication, there will be a number of new proposals tabled at the meeting that affect the future direction of the Association and you will be most welcome to voice your opinion at the meeting.

The AGM is, of course,

also the occasion for electing our President for the next year.

Since we have also been operating with two vacancies on the Executive (Treasurer and Social Secretary) both of these positions will also be open to nominations for the new year.

Enclosed with this edition of *Moreana* are the relevant nomination forms. Please do consider standing for one or other of the positions and help play your part in developing the future of the Association.

With no more than six Executive meetings each year it really isn't too arduous an undertaking!

REMEMBER...AND REJOICE!

This year's annual Memorial Mass will take place on **Thursday 20th June** at 8pm in the school.

As usual the Mass will be followed by a sumptuous buffet, accompanied by plenty of beer and wine giving everyone there the chance to catch-up with old friends and teachers.

The Mass is also the beginning of the Association's year and sees the inauguration of our President.

The event is open to all past pupils and former teachers regardless of whether they are members of this Association. It is also FREE—so spreads the word and let's see if we can't have a record attendance!



Former President Paul Hutchinson chats with Interim Headteacher Gemma Ackred and Head of RE Louise Mason at last year's memorial Mass

MEMBERSHIP AS AT APRIL 2013

1961	Graham Lewis	1972	Paul Culleton David Thompson	1978	Kevin Thomas	1995	Paul Bending
1962	Kevin Butt Michael Hughes John Lewis	1973	Phil Mahoney	1979	Paul Clarke Paul Driscoll David O'Ryan Sean Tyrie	2000	Daniel Kelly (Chpln)
1963	John Bowman John Sheehy	1974	Kevin Bonham Paul McArdle Simon Millyard	1980	Sean Leggett Martin McKeown Nial O'Callaghan	2001	Chris Thompson
1964	John Griffiths Ronald Patchett	1975	Eamon Day David Ekers Keith Exley Chris Fairchild John McDermot Andrew McGregor Gerry Thomas	1981	Sean Conlon	2011	Dale Claridge
1965	Brian Dalton Terry Knights	1976	Chris Barber Laurence Blainey John Chambers Guy Francke Clive Knight Andrew McWilliam Simon Ravinet Martin Sullivan John Todryk James Tyrie	1982	Mark Harvey	2012	Sean Jones
1966	Martyn Barker Patrick Clancy Bill Clegg Paul Hutchinson Paul Wenham	1977	Graham Axe Phil Coath John Cobbold Richard Copley Mark Hidveghy Martin Hodson John Judge Liam Rand	1983	Richard Allard Anthony Crowley	Assoc	Matt Hardiman
1967	Tony Cane Paul Clancy Glen Sweeney Mike Thompson			1984	Michael Barry Mark Denton Stuart Humfrey	Assoc	Chloe Spillett
1968	Martin Duggan Geoffrey Lewis			1985	Tim Allard Karl Streamer	Assoc	Nick Spillett
1969	Peter David Paul Marsh Chris McHale			1986	Ian O'Connell	FT	John Askew
1971	Bernie Brooker Mike Donovan Kevin Flynn			1987	Martin Corr Martin Diggines Steven Hurren	FT	Ian Britt
				1989	Damian Dillon Justin Hennessey Paul Lynch	FT	James Devor
				1990	Christopher Hull	FT	David Finnigan
						FT	Frank Keenan
						FT	Tom Kennedy
						FT	David Milne
						FT	John O'Connell*
						I.H/T	Gemma Ackred
						Hon	Jan Lewis Helen Wigmore

*John O'Connell is currently a member of staff having previously left.

[Once again, membership has grown since the last edition—keep spreading the news-Ed]

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS!

Just what is John Bowman saying to the person on his right at the recent Old Boys' Dinner?

And does it have any relevance to whatever Frank Keenan and John Askew are discussing further along the table?

Please e-mail your suggestions to pdstmoldboys@blueyonder.co.uk

