



The Old Priorian Association Newsletter

Spring 2015

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The President's Dinner

The evening of Thursday 19th March 2015 saw a smaller number than usual gather for the annual President's Dinner at the Royal Over-Seas League in London. Fifty Old Priorians and their guests enjoyed a most convivial evening sustained by good food and wine and speeches from the Headmaster and our Guest of Honour. Among our guests we were delighted to welcome this year's Headboy and Headgirl, Xavier Crean and Alexandra Vangelatos.

Chris Cleugh, in his penultimate year of office spoke of current developments and activities within the School, especially the new £6M ADT and Sixth form block due for completion in September and of his hopes for the future of St Benedict's.

Our Guest of Honour this year was Charles Windmill who had retired last July after twenty six years service to the School. He came to teach at St Benedict's in 1988 as a junior member of the Chemistry Department; in 1989 he was appointed Upper Fourth Division

Master and in 1992 became Master of the Middle School. In 1996 he became Director of Studies as well as taking responsibility for the construction of the school timetable. With the growing importance of Data Analysis, the role of Director of Studies was



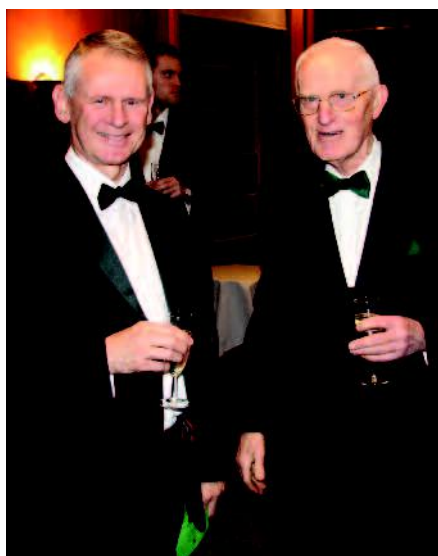
Alexandra Vangelatos and Xavier Crean



Paul Sturt, Paul McGill and
Giles Samarawikrema (all OPs 1984)

split and Charlie became Director of Assessment and responsible for the implementation of SIMS, the school's Management Information System. With such a background of experiences, Charlie's reminiscences gave great entertainment and moments of nostalgia to all.

**By Richard Baker (OP 1959),
Assistant Administrator, OPA**



Charles Windmill (Staff 88-14) and
Basil Nickerson (Staff 56-94)



Luca Uberai, Priyanka Chouhan, Richard de Cintra, Roisin Staunton and Hope Abbott
(all OPs 2010)

The Association President

It is with regret that I must inform Members of the Association that with effect from 4th March 2015, Mary Keal (OP 1983) has resigned as President of the Old Priorian Association. We are sorry to lose Mary and we thank her for the work she has done since her election as President in November 2013 and also for her past work over many years as Editor of this Newsletter - we wish her well.

Over the course of the next few months Council will be actively seeking a replacement President who will be elected to post at the Annual General Meeting in November 2015.

Lewis Hill (OP 1975), Secretary OPA

Oxbridge Dinner

On Friday 30th January 2015, the Oxford & Cambridge Club bore witness to the first Old Priorian Oxbridge Dinner. Some forty five Old Priorians attended, ranging in age from the early twenties to the late seventies, along with teachers who were closer to their seventies but still looked like they were in their twenties. Teaching at St Benedict's obviously keeps one young. Mr Ian Stephen arrived without his cricket bat and Mr Dicky Thomas without his Arsenal hat, but we recognised them both immediately. Meanwhile, Mr Marek Nalewajko added some glamour to the evening representing the clamouring paparazzi with his flashy camera.

Attendees had travelled from around the country and some from abroad. One of us had made the trip from Germany, leaving behind two young twins and an understanding wife. The evening started with a champagne reception in one of the Club's stunning rooms, where we resuscitated old friendships and heard from Christopher Cleugh about the great strides which the school had made (not just in rugby!) in recent years. We then moved down the stairs to a three course dinner, with wine and wit.



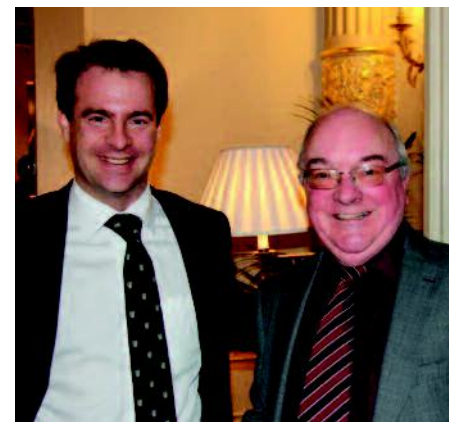
The Gathering

After dinner, our guest of honour, Lord Patten of Barnes (OP 1962), regaled us with stories of his time at St Benedict's (which he thoroughly enjoyed), Balliol College (where his professors shaped his intellect even further), in Thatcher's Cabinet (which was good preparation for working with Cardinals), the governor's house in Hong Kong (having been elected to that role - as he said, with his usual air of self-deprecation - by the people of Bath), as vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and now as special adviser to Pope Francis.

Lord Patten also emphasised the necessity of a good education in helping us to look further and walk taller, as well as the duty which we all have to give something back to those institutions, including St Benedict's, which have helped us, so that future generations may benefit from what we have been privileged to experience.

On a personal level, this was the first time that we two had met Lord Patten since we, as Cambridge students, had interviewed him on his wedding anniversary in Government House in Hong Kong almost 20 years ago. Back then, he had spoken about the challenges of negotiating with the Chinese and of the importance of democracy, immigration and the rule of law within a dynamic and thriving community. At the Club, we handed over to Lord Patten a framed photograph of our meeting in 1996 ("Gosh, I was thin back then") as a belated thank-you for his generosity and his wife's understanding.

The venue was special and the evening was relaxed and entertaining. Many of us swapped



*Mark Leonard and Ian Stephen
(Staff 1970-2008)*

business cards and have since kept in contact. Those who attended the event look forward to this becoming a more regular occasion and to watching the school flourish further under the steady hand of Christopher Cleugh and his team. And one of us even left with Lord Patten's autograph and a hand-written message for an understanding wife in Germany.

By "The Two Marks" - Mark Leonard (OP 1993) and Mark Fitzgerald (OP 1994)



*Kumaran Perinpanathan (OP 2009) and
Walid Haddad (OP 2010)*

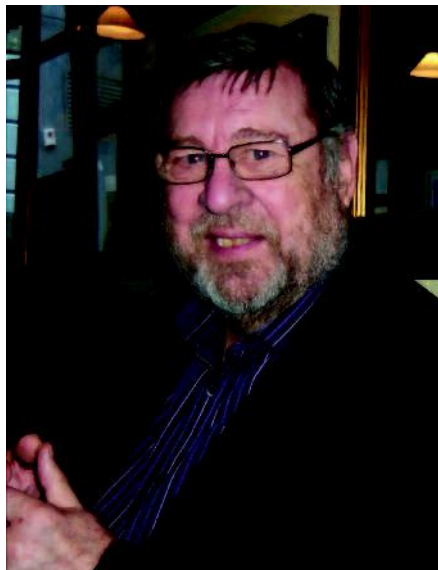
50s Reunion Lunch March 2015

The biannual reunion lunch for OPs who left between 1955 and 1965 (roughly!) has become a well-established date in many OPs' diaries; although most of us are now well over seventy we still manage to get to Shampers' Wine Bar in London from all parts of the country for the occasion. Our latest lunch was held on Thursday 12th March 2015 when fourteen of us

gathered to feed. For the first time since these lunches began, Ian Blackaller (OP 1957) was hors de combat having had a knee operation a few days before and could not be with us - he had however done all the usual organisation, ensuring that a most successful event took place. We wish him a speedy full recovery. On this occasion we were joined by two new faces,

Ian Bristow (OP 1949) and John Appi (OP 1957); we were delighted to have them with us and they indicated that they had enjoyed themselves very much. Our next gathering is scheduled for Tuesday 10th November 2015.

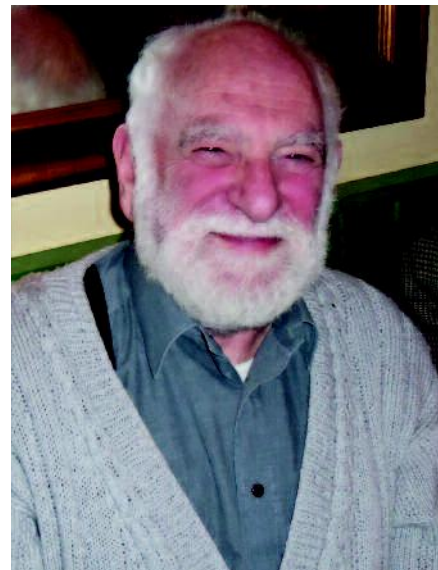
By Richard Baker (OP 1959)



John Appi (OP 1957)



Ian Bristow (OP 1949)



Anthony Phillips (OP 1958)

The CCF at St Benedict's celebrates 85 years

Selfless Commitment, Integrity, Discipline, Courage, Respect for Others, and Loyalty - these are the core values of the British Armed Forces and remain as important to St Benedict's School Combined Cadet Force today as when it was established in 1930.

From Fr Alexander's homily at the Thanksgiving Mass

On a cold but gloriously sunny afternoon on Friday 23rd January, Old Priorians, parents and staff of St Benedict's School and Cardinal Wiseman School watched the Combined Cadet Force parade. The inspection of the Guard of Honour was undertaken by former Commanding Officer of the Corps, Lt Col (Retd) Richard Baker (SBS



Guests in the congregation at the Thanksgiving Mass

Continued on page 4

The CCF at St Benedict's celebrates 85 years continued

CCF: Cadet 1954-1959 (S/Sgt); Officer: 1962-1991; Contingent Commander 1978-1991), and was preceded by a Thanksgiving Mass in Ealing Abbey during which Father Alexander highlighted the CCF's values and how they affected some of the founding members of 'The Corps'. He also told the gathered congregation of the sacrifice made by so many St Benedict's Old Priorians during the World Wars. Those who gave their lives in the service of their country are honoured on the School's War Memorial in the Orchard Hall.

The CCF was founded as the Officer Training Corps on January 24th 1930, and re-formed as the Combined Cadet Force in 1948. No longer compulsory, the CCF now has seventy-five Cadets, thirty of them from Cardinal Wiseman School in Greenford - an arrangement which benefits both schools.

This year's thirty-four recruits were split almost 50/50 between the two schools. Already this academic year the Cadets have enjoyed a Field Day at Pirbright; led the School's Remembrance Day ceremony; collected over £600 for the Poppy Appeal and £400 for the War Memorial Fund; and provided a Guard of Honour for a remembrance event in West Ealing.

Forthcoming highlights include Exercise Winter's Bite and a range day during February half-term, and a field weekend in March. Last November, C/Sgt Kamil Cesarz was asked by the Royal British Legion to launch the 2014 Poppy Appeal at the Cenotaph alongside the singer Joss Stone and Kamil was interviewed by the BBC.

During the reception following the parade, Mr Cleugh thanked all for attending and making the afternoon such a success, and drew attention to the photos, quotations and memories shared by those Old Priorians who served in the CCF on display in the Orchard Hall during afternoon tea. The Headmaster also fittingly at this time of commemoration of the centenary of the start of the Great War, launched the School's appeal for the War Memorial Fund, to replace the damaged and incomplete board with a new War Memorial in a more fitting location.

**By Tamlyn Worrall,
Development Director
St Benedict's School**



CSM Jeddie Foley asks Lt Col Baker to inspect the Guard

Some comments from those attending:

It was an honour to lead the parade in front of so many former members of the CCF and to share with them the privilege of belonging to such a valuable part of School life.

CSM Jeddie Foley (Senior Cadet of CCF 2014-2015)

That so many parents, former officers and Old Priorians joined us was testament to the loyalty which the CCF has inspired in previous generations, and to the value which they place on the training which we give and the values which we represent.

Capt Shaun Hullis (Acting Contingent Commander)

'58 Webbing, Putties, 24 hour rations, Hexy burners, Ponchos, Mud and rain - it smells of ... Victory!

Paul McGill (OP 1984)

The CCF was probably one of the best activities at school. I have tasted the mud of Crowborough in all its glory!

Paul Sturt (OP 1984)

Just like coming home!

Richard Warnes (OP 1983)

Thanks for the memories.

Kevin Kiernan (OP 1970)

“My CCF Memories”

I was in St Benedict's CCF between 1957 and 1960. It was then still compulsory. Had it not been I don't think I'd have joined, but then I'd have missed out on a great deal of fun and adventure.

I liked everything about it. First, the vanity of it - boot-caps polished till they shone like black glass, battledress trouser-legs ironed razor-sharp to hang in perfect symmetry, cap-badge and belt-buckles sparkling - the result of late-night hours willingly spent to look as smart, and as cool, as the best of the best.

Second, the snap and stamp of the parade ground - learning to stand straight, present arms straight, to march straight (plus slow-march and quick-march), to wheel, and, best of all, to do a right angle turn, or even more spectacular, an about-turn, at full march speed; and later, once you'd got stripes on your arm, to drill your own platoon at maximum voice volume and octave-range, and fancy yourself a regular sergeant-major.

Third, the adventure of Camp or Field-day: singing army songs with your mates in the back of a swaying truck; leopard-crawling during 'night-ops' through the trees and undergrowth till you leap out upon the unsuspecting 'enemy' (ideally including a teacher whom you could now capture and order about); shooting with the heavy-kicking Lee-Enfield 303s at the butts, and getting a 'First-class' or even

'Marksman' badge to wear proudly on your sleeve.

Fourth, 'Arduous Training' - five days of trudging up hill and down dale with 40 lbs on your back- one year Exmoor, the next the Peak District, in tight little groups of five good friends, camping where you could, and eating from tins of army rations (I mainly recall soft crumbly chunks of 'ham 'n eggs') and 'hard-tack' - solid biscuits which looked as if they'd harbour mealy bugs or woodworm but didn't, brewing up Camp coffee at night.

The CCF was a marvellous institution for the learning of techniques - to become good at something difficult, something new, arcane even, to learn a trick - which teenagers love to do. And to enjoy being active, brave, resilient and tough, and to do all that with your best friends. Excellent. It was very good for me. Thank you St Benedict's CCF - and all its Officers (our teachers) who made it possible, and for whom the War was such a recent experience.

By Stephen Novy (OP 1961)



The War Memorial

St Benedict's 2004 Leavers 10 year Reunion

On a cold, dry December evening in Soho square, Old Priorians started arriving at a classy private members' club (courtesy of OP Fiona Byrne, née Ryan) for the 10 year reunion of Class 2004. As

people started arriving one by one, many hugs and laughs were exchanged, memories flooded back and old stories were retold. Even though life had taken some of us far and wide, it was great to see

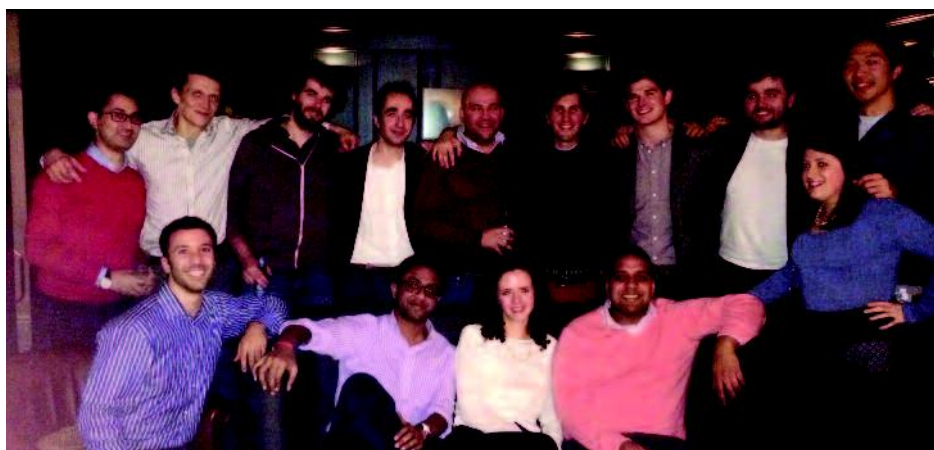
the special effort people had made to come, including one OP, Predee Anuvatnujotikul, who had flown back early from Singapore to be there. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and how we had all changed and matured over time. Talking to different individuals highlighted what different walks of life people had taken, and the adventures encountered along the way. It was particularly interesting to hear about people's travel history and the places and cultures they had visited (something you can't experience from Facebook or other social media platforms!). Of course the topic of marriages, births etc. came up and we were thrilled to have with us the recently wedded Mr & Mrs Fiona and Daniel Delgado Byrne. Many were engaged or had plans to be; I think I speak on behalf of everyone when we all began to feel our age at this point!

As the night went on, and people were more at ease, it was refreshing to see the familiar characteristics and mannerisms of some people - the way they joke, laugh, tell a story, and in that sense it was good to see that some things don't change! I believe everyone there was genuinely pleased to have met up and caught up with other OPs, bearing in mind some people hadn't seen each other for 10 years, and many commented on how we really should make this an annual event! Those who could not make it were missed, and many of their names came up in our conversations. Hopefully next time we can attract more OPs. To everyone who came though, thank you - It was a great night!

By Sinan Khadhour (OP 2004)



Sinan Khadhour, Joe Gleeson, Fiona Byrne (Ryan), Predee Anuvatnujotikul



Back row: Riocard Joshua, Martin Rudski, Robert Wronski, Daniel Delgado Byrne, Bruce Kirkaldi, Chris Cavalier, Joe Gleeson, Matthew Doyle, Predee Anuvatnujotikul, Sabina Pasokhy (Guest) Front row: Sinan Khadhour, Andrew Swampallai, Fiona Byrne, Mark Machado

St Benedict's 2009 Leavers 5 year Reunion

On 23rd January 2015, 2009 leavers had their second official reunion since they departed from St Benedict's School over five years ago. Around 45 of us, just under half of the year, met at the Haven Arms in Ealing, and we were given a generous subsidy by the OPA.

One would think that, five years after leaving school, much would have changed. In some respects, this was true: most people had completed their undergraduate degrees and entered the world of work, whilst a few of us continue to embrace education. The sectors in which people are working include finance, healthcare, marketing and advertising, film and television, teaching, and the armed forces. One 2009 leaver has even set up his own company.

From this, one might think that all

of us would have moved on from our days at St Benedict's - after all, five years is a relatively long time, and we have all matured. However, the atmosphere at our reunion bore similarities to the lunch breaks we enjoyed together in the sixth form common room. This reunion saw much laughter, discussion and, of course, reminiscing.

One 2009 leaver who was sorely missed was Tom Clark, who died in October 2014. Learning of this sad news created a void in the lives of the 2009 leavers and many others. His spirit will live on in our reunions, and we will never forget the happiness and laughter that he inspired at school and beyond.

St Benedict's taught us the value of community, and it is a testament to the school that we are able to have such well-attended, vibrant, and

enjoyable reunions. We started out at a relatively small school but, from the smallest beginnings (*a minimis incipe*), we now begin to branch out and flourish in our adult lives. Nevertheless, we remain rooted in the Benedictine ethos, and are able to reunite as if we had never left the school. I look forward to the next reunion.

By Anthony Searle (OP 2009)

Editor's Note: Regretfully there are no pictures available for this article - please remember to use your "Delete Button" with care!!



Anthony Searle - he who needs to take more care!

The OPA Award 2015

Association members who have left school since July 2010 (inclusive) are still eligible for consideration for the 2015 OPA Award. We do hope that you will give the matter due consideration and that you may wish to apply.

Full information that you will need should you wish to apply and some details about recent awards are available at:

www.theopa.org/about-us/the-opa-award

Applications must be received before 30th June 2015.

A Home for all Old Priorians

There was great excitement among the younger OP community when it was discovered that John Campbell (OP 2002) had decided to leave his job in the city to run a pub - Ealing's very own Haven Arms no less! Recently recognised as one of Ealing's leading pubs you'll be able to find OPs of all vintages inside eating, drinking or just playing with Bella, the pub dog (pictured). Next time you're in Ealing then pop in and say hello to John and his team.



Bella

Your News

If you would like to share where life has taken you since you left St Benedict's with our readers, please get in touch! Simply complete the "Where Are You Now?" form on our website: theopa.org or get in touch with our Development & Alumni Relations Office.



The Haven Arms, Ealing

Sailing Mirror World Championships 2015

Old Priorians Ed (07-14) and Celia (12-14) Hansell spent the first two weeks of January 2015 sailing in the Mirror African and Mirror World Championships held at Theewaterskloof, a huge reservoir located in the Western Cape of South Africa. Ed was only 14 years old at the time and Celia 16. The events attracted 60 entries

including eleven boats from Great Britain alongside boats from South Africa, Australia, France and Japan. Despite suffering a broken mast in high winds on the first day of the African Championship, they finished a very creditable 12th overall in the African Championship and 30th overall in the World Championship.



Choppy Waters!



Competitors' Parade

OPA Subscriptions

Members who pay an annual subscription to The Association by Standing Order from their banks should by now be aware that the OPA Bankers have changed; we have informed members by email and post, but some have yet to make the appropriate change with their bank.

Would you please check and ensure that your subscription is being paid to the following account:

Name of Account:
The Old Priorian Association
Sort Code: 20-72-17
Account No: 80305030
Annual Amount: £10 (Ten Pounds)

This Barclay's Bank account is the only active OPA account.

OPRFC try their hand at refereeing

One chilly Saturday morning, a few tired faces from OPRFC appeared at Perivale to referee some of the school home games. It was a great opportunity to pay something back to the school as well as allowing the school coaches a chance to enjoy their bacon rolls without running around immediately afterwards. St Benedict's Director of Rugby, James Coles, had the following to say:

"On behalf of the school I would just like to say a huge thank you to The Old Priorian RFC for all your help and encouragement on Saturday. As you are already aware, Saturday morning fixtures are often seen as one of the central points in school life, so having a strong connection with our old boys in this respect is fantastic. Whilst I was unable to be at the home fixtures on Saturday, the feedback that I have received from both parents and staff with regards to the referees has been extremely positive and I know both the staff and the players really valued the opportunity for their coaches to be on the side-lines fully coaching rather than having to focus on refereeing."

Recent Leavers' Rugby

The Recent Leavers Match was always an institution in the St Benedict's rugby calendar. However, the school's increased success in national competitions made it hard to find a date to fit it in for a couple of seasons. Fortunately, they were able to arrange it this year.

On Sunday 4th January 2015, St Benedict's 1st XV took on the recent leavers of 2014 with a splattering of the leavers of 2013 included in what had become an eagerly anticipated game. It was played in true Old Boys style with physicality from both sides well above their age.

The OPRFC Leavers had been gearing themselves up for months to play this game. There were no tears shed between the two opponents, both fantastic teams in their own rights. The Leavers were captained by school boy England international Michael Ledger (OP 2014) and featured many of the players from last season's 1st team including several who have recently featured in the OPRFC squads this season. On the coaching side, Myles Stringer (OP 2006) took control of the team with help from his brother Charlie (OP 2008) who was chief instigator for the backs.

OPRFC went into the game with the confidence of being a year older and many having played 3 months of university rugby, and some playing men's rugby in preseason for The OPs. The match started tensely and aggressively. From the first contact it was obvious that the school were not going to take a backwards step. Phelim Kavanagh and Ollie Ainsby found themselves in the middle of some very heated moments amongst the older players in the opening 15 minutes. The games'

physicality and aggressiveness never really let off throughout and it was a testament to both teams that it stayed this way. The OPRFC had a simple game plan - in attack - enjoy. Throw the ball around, off-load! Run everything!!! In defence - suffocate!! Get off the line fast, close down the 1st and 2nd receiver and stop the ball getting wide. This was a risky game plan as it left them vulnerable out wide which was highlighted early when a great line from 15 year old (South East U16) Charlie Page opened a hole for flying winger Harry Hanley to exploit, and if it wasn't for a fantastic covering tackle by Louis Goring-Morris (OP 2014), the school would have scored a trademark 60m broken field try. However it seemed this wasn't to be their day. The OPRFC Leavers absorbed the pressure and hit as hard as they could. When they did turn over ball they played with flair and never threw caution to the wind - from the first scrum Matt Keen (OP 2014) hit an outrageous cross field to Jack Oubridge (OP 2014), and if it hadn't been for an offside call it could have ended in a try. It was not to be at this point, however as the match moved on, the OPs seemed to up their physicality and after some fantastic carries from Matt Keen, David Howe (OP 2014) and Niko Mirosovic-Sorgo (OP 2014), strong running winger Nathan Graves (OP 2014) managed to squeeze over in the corner. A successful touch line conversion from Goring-Morris created a 7-0 score line going into half time.

The second half started much the same as the first - a real war of attrition played in the middle half of the field. The 1st XV started to show their class and eventually crept into the OP 22 and came away with 3 points from a penalty

by Brendan Rice. The rest of the half continued in this typically brutal fashion. The OPs started to struggle with the tempo of the game and the tempo of their own defence which left holes for the school to try and exploit and if it hadn't been for some fantastic defensive efforts by Michael Ledger, Fred Tucker (OP 2014) and Mark Makram (OP 2013) the school could have run away with it. The main opportunities for the school never seemed to materialise and the OPs dug deep. 10 minutes from the end, second row Ellis Ozols (OP 2014) found himself on the wing reaching for a ball near his knees which he should never have caught - luckily on this day the ball stuck (for once) and he found himself crashing over in the corner for the OPs' second try of the game - the conversion this time was unsuccessful. From here the school kicked up a gear, looking for the next scoring opportunity but in their frustration never seemed to look up and exploit the tired forwards hanging out wide in the centres.

The final whistle blew and the OPs stood victorious. The end came with a mixture of relief and happiness. It was a game both teams truly wanted to win. A fantastic game of rugby played in true OP spirit. Hopefully we will see many of these boys run out in the Black, Yellow and Green of the OPRFC senior squads more consistently.

Men of the match went to Fred Tucker in the backs and Ellis Ozols in the forwards.

By Myles Stringer (OP 2006), St Benedict's and OPRFC Strength and Conditioning Coach

Editor's Note: Although this article is about OPs who left in 2014, it does contain names of other OPs and current members of the School 1st XV; for clarity all OP dates have been included.

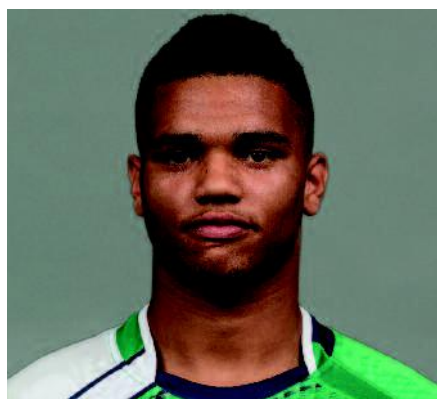


Photo courtesy of INPHO

Cian Romaine plays for Ireland U20s

When I first came over to Connacht my obvious goal was to make the U19 team there and then hopefully impress enough to get onto the Irish 19s panel. At first I didn't make the cut but the training and support I received with Connacht and my club Buccaneers

allowed me to develop and I eventually got my chance against France. Going into my second year I had pipe dreams of making the Irish 20s as it was a big step up from 19s but I was given a lot of exposure to pro level rugby with Connacht Eagles in the B&I cup

Cian Romaine

which really helped me develop physically and hone my skills. From that I got called into 20s camp where we had a trial game against Leinster in which I felt I impressed and from then on it was camp after camp just trying to impress. The level of training and intensity is so high, everyone is fighting for that starting place and when it comes down to it, it's only small things that put one player ahead of another. There's so much talent



Cian scores a try

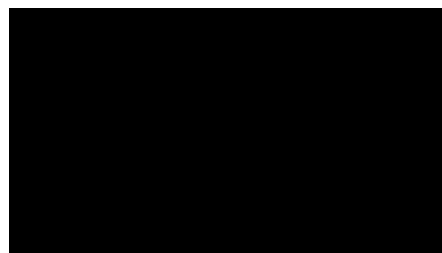
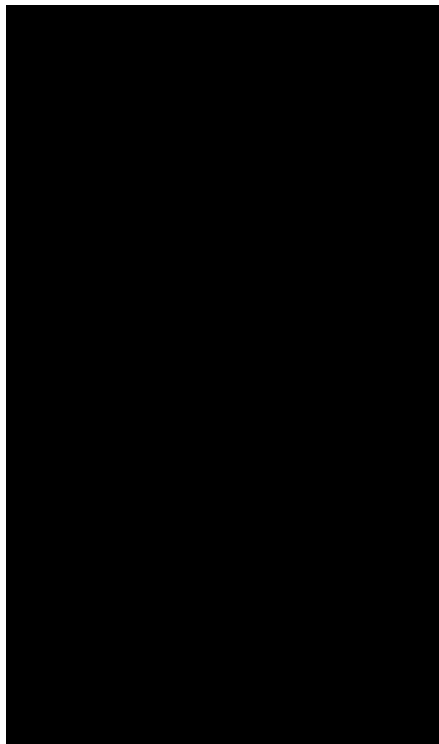
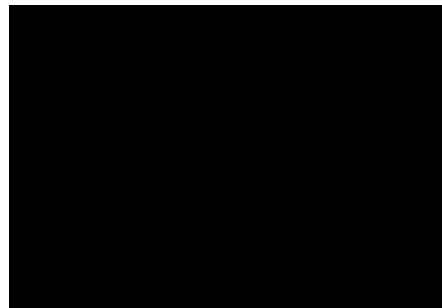
and depth in the squad I'd hate to be the one picking the team. The games themselves are very physical and every mistake has a big consequence as we learnt against Wales. There's so much analysis and work put into every game so you have to be prepared to put in the work off the pitch as it is just as important as the on-pitch work.

One of my highlights would have to be training with the Irish seniors, there was an open session in the Aviva and half the squad were away with the Irish Wolfhounds so Joe Schmidt called in the 20s to run against the seniors. Paul O'Connell pulled out of the session so I was picked to train with the seniors and the level that they train at is as high and intense as you'll find. I was blowing after about 5 minutes but it was a great experience.

By Cian Romaine (OP 2013)



Cian carries the ball against Italy



Future dates for your diary

Full details will be published in our email news and on our website:

OPA & School Summer Sports Festival

Cricket, Tennis & Netball
Sunday 5th July 2015
Playing Fields, Perivale

OPA 1955 to 1965 Mass & Reunion Lunch

Sunday 4th October 2015
Ealing Abbey & School

OPA Annual General Meeting

AGM, Memorial Mass & Lunch
Saturday 7th November 2015
Ealing Abbey and Benet Club



OPRFC Post Christmas Report

After a well-earned and much needed Christmas break, the Twisters returned to playing ways on the 3rd January away at Chingford who were flying high in the league. A last minute pitch inspection was positive, however the conditions weren't to improve. OPs battled hard but it was Chingford who raced into an early lead through some clinical pick and drive play - suiting the conditions well. To their credit the Twisters never gave in, and a late Barney Wellings (OP 2010) try gave some hope that something could be taken from the game with the score at 13-5, however Chingford stood firm and no bonus point score could be gained.

The next game wasn't any easier as we played host to Eton Manor who were just second in the league. Due to the poor recent weather the game was moved out to Royal Holloway's impressive 4G pitch, which would promise a fast open game. Early exchanges in the game were fired but the OPs were dealt a huge blow (not just for the game but also for the season) when captain Adam McCulloch (OP 2008) broke his leg in a collision. Eton Manor struck with a clean set piece move to send them in front, however OPs hit back when neat interplay led to Seb Oddi streaking up the left wing before passing back inside to Jack Dever (OP 2008) to score and level up the scores. Unfortunately for the OPs, Eton Manor showed the reason they are second with some clinical rugby and powerful running, opening up a 17-5 lead with 20 minutes to go. Stern words were said and the team responded with Seb Oddi benefitting from a turnover to get us within a score at 17-10. This is how the game ended, but there was a sense of frustration that again we could have taken more



David Wilkie makes a break

from it. One positive from the game was the return to playing for former school captain and OP coach John Bordiss (OP 2007) after a few years out with a series of serious injuries. The following week, we made the journey over to Brentwood to face a mid-table rival. The story of the OPs' season showed early on as we lost influential player Michael Simpson (OP 2008) to injury, forcing a midfield reshuffle. On a very lopsided pitch, which the hosts knew how to play very well, the OPs crumbled and conceded, with Brentwood's big ball carriers able to get over the gain line with ease it became a long day and we were on the wrong side of a 39-3 result. A positive to take from the game was that the new OPRFC budgee smugglers were worn for the first time, a big hit with both sets of teams.

After three successive losses, the OPs were in desperate need of a win; next up was Ipswich back at Fortress Perivale with the confidence to win after we had beaten them away back in 2014. We knew we had to be on our game however as they would be desperate to get a result and force their way up the table. James Booth (OP 2008) put any nerves to bed early on with a long range penalty sailing through. However, Ipswich got their tails up when their big ball carrying number 8 bundled his way over to give them a lead. Calm heads were needed and James Booth kept the scoreboard ticking over with his kicking, and then a key moment when the talismanic number 8 was sin-binned for repeated infringements. The pack seized upon this moment and a push over score from Tim Boreman left a bit of a buffer to work with at 17-7. For the rest of the game OPs defended, chopping everything that was thrown their way, Charlie Allum (OP 2008) leading from the front with heroic defence. With seconds to go, Ipswich forced their way over but it was too little too late as OPs recorded their first win of 2015.

An away trip up to Luton was next on the cards, the OPs started strongest with Seb Oddi being released down the left wing to score at ease. A couple of penalties a piece left the game within the balance, but after great pressure by Charlie Allum in the opening moments of the second half the OPs had their second try through Barney Wellings (OP 2010). With



Charlie Allum throws in to Stefan Rowell

the OPs set to cruise, the tide quickly changed when some sloppy mistakes allowed Luton to get a foothold and some quick fire scores left them with a 20-13 victory, a bitter pill to swallow.

After a welcome week off, the OPs were back in action, this time welcoming Letchworth RFC (in fourth place) to Perivale, but we had the confidence to turn over. This confidence was evident from the first whistle, as the OPs dominated the opening exchanges. Jack Dever and David Wilkie (OP 2010) going over early after good work from Aristide Goualin (OP 2008). Letchworth battled hard but their job was made harder after a red card was handed to one of their players. More tries were to come from David Wilkie, Aristide Goualin and Seb Oddi (2) meant the bonus point was secured. In a game where the OPs scored plenty it was the resilience of the defence, where everybody went looking for work, which would have been the most pleasing for the coaching set up.

A difficult away trip to North Walsham would be next, not only the five hour journey to negotiate but some dodgy egg mayonnaise sandwiches made it even more difficult. With a superior home record, the OPs fell short and lost to a well drilled side 31-0. The following week saw table leaders Colchester come to Perivale, after beating 3rd and 4th at home whilst running 2nd close there may have been an upset in the air. After coming out of the blocks firing with Aristide Goualin scoring and kicking a penalty, Colchester took a grip on the game when the OPs were reduced to 13 and came out eventual winners 26-64 winners.

Late March saw the OPs travel to

bottom of the league Woodford. Illness meant three late changes with Jack Dever, David Haston (OP 2006) and Anthony Andrews unable to play – this fixture could have been a potential banana skin. However the OPs had far too much back up fire-power and eased to victory. Aristide Goulain stole the show with 39 points including 5 tries along the way! Daniel Porter (OP 2008) crossed for a hat trick to claim the back of the match award, with Michael Dolan (OP 2008) nominated as forward of the match.

With three remaining fixtures, the gauntlet was set for a maximum 15 points to be taken, with every point vital with the run in to the season. The boys worked hard in the build

up to the final home game of the season against Barking RFC on 28th March 2015. Alex Pereira-Inacio (OP 2000) organised a fantastic pre-game lunch for a record crowd as OP support came out in force for a crucial fixture. Barking were 5th in the table going into the game and also the former club of our coach, Anthony Andrews - no more motivation was needed! The OPs were excellent from start to finish, their organised defence and aggressive line-speed preventing Barking from gaining momentum. Tries for Stefan Rowell (OP 2008), Aristide Goulain and two for Jack Dever sealed a 29-13 victory. This match also saw Dave Howe (OP 2014) make his OPRFC 1st XV debut having only left last summer. Two matches remain as



John Bordiss flanked by Jack Dever and Aristide Goulain

the OPs seek to be one of the first clubs in many years to get promoted to London 1 North and do well enough to stay in the division.

By Jack Dever (OP 2008)

News of Old Priorians December 2014 to March 2015

Peter Bingham-Daly (OP 1955): died 8th March 2015, aged 77. R.I.P.

Vinyo Buckey-Keogh (née Gbecker-Kove) (OP 1993): Is now married and living in Scotland; much of her time is spent home-schooling her 8 year old daughter and renovating an old cottage.

Matthew Daly (OP 1991): Matthew and his wife Ginny announce the birth of their son Leo on 15th January 2015.

Peter Davis (OP 1971): living in Canada. Peter was seeking information about the Silver brothers - this was successfully accomplished thanks to OPs reading our Email news and responding!

Marco Diliberto (OP 2007): living in West London and working for Barclays Bank, based in Canary Wharf.

Peter Fosbery (OP 1961) living in Canada; President and owner of an Insurance Agency.

Michael Grigg (OP 1957): now living in North Carolina, USA and

involved in Software Development.

James Hamblin (OP 1989): living in Melbourne Australia and working in the Automotive Industry.

Philip Harvey (OP 1966): married now for 42 years and living in North Dorset; retired as a Primary School Head Teacher.

Kevin James (OP 1963): brother of Brendan (OP 1959), died 6th February 2015, aged 69. R.I.P.

Brian Kelaart (OP 1949): died 2nd January 2015, aged 82. R.I.P.

Leonard Khan (OP 1997): living in Middlesex.

Wojciech Liszka (OP 1966): living in Surrey; now retired from his life as a Chartered Civil Engineer.

Max Mathias (OP 2013): living in London and hoping that the OPA Fencing Event against the School can be "rejuvenated" - he is willing to organise a team, so if you are interested then please contact Max through the OPA Office.

David McLean (OP 1960): alive and well and enjoying retirement and the grandchildren in Christchurch New Zealand; he would love to hear from any in his era, or a visit if you are down-under.

Dennis O'Keeffe (OP 1957): husband of Mary (Senior School Staff 1976-1997) father of Matthew (OP 1988) and brother of Patrick (OP 1959), died 16th December 2014, aged 75. R.I.P.

Michael Orton (OP 1959): died 12th January 2015, aged 72. R.I.P.

Bramwell Pearce (OP 1980): is now the Regional General Manager of an hotel group in Sumatra.

Ayaz Ranji (OP 1982): now living in Canada.

Michael Rapazzini (OP 1957): telephoned from Milan, Italy apologising that ill-health prevented him from attending this year's President's Dinner.

Pierre Ricard (OP 1953): died 17th February 2015, aged 80. R.I.P.

David Silver (OP 1964): now living in Essex and retired from the field of Education.

Simon Vannuccinni (OP 1992): Simon and his wife Anna are delighted to announce the birth of their son Leonardo on 21st January 2015; a brother for Carlotta (2½).



The Old Priorian Association

Founded 1927

The Old Priorian Association

The Old Priorian Association was formed on Friday, 1st July 1927 with the name reflecting its beginnings within Ealing Priory School, which was the name of St Benedict's School at the time.

The Association was established to form a centre of union for former pupils of the School and to hold meetings to renew old bonds which connect its Members and alumni with the School and Ealing Abbey. A vital role of the Association is to forward and promote - in every practical way - the interests of the School, whilst conducting its business according to The Rules of The Association, which form the structure within which it operates.

The Association is governed and run by a Council consisting of three elected Officers, no fewer than four elected Members and a number of Ex-Officio Members.

Elected Officers

Lewis Hill (OP 1975)

Honorary Secretary

Ayelsha Patel (OP 2004)

Honorary Treasurer

Council Members

Frank Casali (OP 1984)

Edward Conway (OP 2005)

Matthew Goldsworthy (OP 2007)

Sinead Leahy (OP 2008)

Marina Ranger (OP 2009)

Brian Taylor, CB (OP 1960)

Peter Watson (OP 1952)

Ex-Officio Council Members

Chris Cleugh

Headmaster

Rob Simmons (OP 1987)

Headmaster, Junior School

Catherine de Cintra

Finance Director, St Benedict's

Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976)

Chairman, St Benedict's

Governing Board

Giles Codrington (OP 1980)

Society of Parents and Friends

Richard Baker (OP 1959)

Assistant Administrator

Marek Nalewajko

Marketing Director,
St Benedict's School

Tamlyn Worrall

Director of Development,
St Benedict's School

Full details about the Association and its activities can be found at:
www.theopa.org

The Association has office facilities within the School and may be contacted by:

Email:

opa@stbenedicts.org.uk

Telephone:

020 8862 2249

Post:

**The Old Priorian Association,
54 Eaton Rise, Ealing,
London W5 2ES**



Your Newsletter

Please do let us have your news and views for inclusion in the next Newsletter. This edition does not contain a "School News" section due to space restrictions; full details of what is happening at the School can always be found at: www.stbenedicts.org.uk/Latest-News

Please also remember submitted image files should be of high resolution and as large a file size as possible.