



The Old Priorian Association

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2012

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From The President

Dear Members,

The Old Priorian Rugby Football Club dominate our news this issue; off to a flying start in "London North West 3" with seven wins from their first seven league matches, hosting a successful Careers Evening in the Parish Centre and celebrating their one-hundredth 1st XV match in style at the Playing Fields - they have been very busy and deserve our hearty congratulations.

Congratulations also to Ben Elliott (OP 2007), the beneficiary of this year's Old Priorian Award. Ben joined an international delegation of human rights lawyers earlier this year for a series of conferences in Bogota in an attempt to urge the Colombian government to improve respect for human rights in the country. We look forward to reading about his journey in our next issue.

Finally, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to Mary Keal (OP 1983), David Murphy (OP 1954) and Emma

Whitehouse (OP 1998) for their dedication, hard work and long-standing commitment to the success of the Association over the years, as they step down from Council.

I hope that you enjoy this issue and ask that you keep sending in your news, stories and photographs.
Season's greetings.

*Paul Fagan (OP 1991)
President, The Old Priorian Association*

OPRFC Update

The Old Priorian Rugby Football Club (OPRFC) have had a fine start in "London 3 North West", having won seven from seven in the league and all eleven fixtures in total. Pre-season, under new coach Anthony Andrews alongside Paul Jackson, was enjoyable, swiftly moving between drills and fitness and building our style of play and game plan each week. It was first put to the test in a predictably scrappy affair against Darlington on the annual OPRFC tour, this year to Newcastle. The long drive up didn't leave us feeling too fresh, but we enjoyed the opportunity to run around and get tackling again in a rare Friday night fixture under lights. We showed our ability in flashes and were pleased with the victory.



The OPRFC Squad after Datchworth

The next two pre-season fixtures were considerably more comfortable as we put in commanding performances against Hammersmith and Fulham 3s and London Welsh Amateurs, winning 57-14 and 62-10 respectively. David Wilkie (OP 2010) started the season impressively, continuing from last season's great form with strong runs, linking footwork and excellent defence. It was also a great opportunity to bed-in a number of new signings with Peter O'Neill (OP 1999), Sam Codrington (OP 2000), Richard Lowe, Michael Simpson (OP 2008) and James Booth (OP 2008) bringing their various skills and qualities to the club.

The first game of the season showed what we were in for, with a tough fixture away to Hitchin in Hertfordshire. The physicality of the game exceeded those from last season and Hitchin were an abrasive side that sought to get under our skin from the first minute. Losing our Captain Andrew Wilkie (OP 2008) to a fractured rib within the first few minutes was a huge loss but we showed great determination to grab a narrow 18-13 win thanks to tries from the Codrington brothers and superb defence from McCulloch (OP 2008), Lowe, Rowell (OP 2008) and Langley (OP 1996).



David Wilkie (OP 2010)

The following week saw a much better, if not complete, performance to win 30-0 at home against the Imperial Medicals - despite a number of missing players - before recording our third win in another tough Hertfordshire match against Datchworth. The first half performance was a display of superb attack, but the second half was very different, spent mostly defending in our half including surviving a spell of being down to 13 as a result of two yellow cards. A blistering four tries from Sam Codrington proved to be the difference.

The first weekend in October we travelled to recently relegated Twickenham for a battle of two unbeaten teams. Their backs conspired to cause us problems that we had yet to face in the

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The opinions expressed in the newsletter are those of the writers and not necessarily those of The Old Priorian Association.
Editor: Paul Fagan ©The Old Priorian Association*

league and they scored two well-worked tries to lead 20-9 with only four minutes. Newly signed Aristide Goualin (OP 2008) - whose transfer from Ealing was completed minutes before the deadline the previous day - produced two moments of magic to drag us back into contention. First was an incredible run: having picked up the ball on our try line he danced through six Twickenham defenders to launch a lethal counter attack. We kept the ball well and managed to get Sam Codrington over to score and give us some hope. Even so, at this stage we were targeting a losing bonus point, but somehow we managed to keep the ball phase after phase playing deep into injury time. After at least seven minutes of injury time we chose a scrum from a penalty in order to try and get Goualin one on one with his winger. It worked a treat as he was able to score. Edd Conway (OP 2005) held his nerve to nail the conversion for the Old Priorians to steal a stunning 21-20 win.

Finchley and Haringey were next to be dispatched, 32-12 and 62-0 respectively, before Welwyn came to "Fortress Perivale" in the clash of the only two unbeaten teams left in the league. The Old Priorians started with a bang,

producing a superb first half of high intensity and devastating defence. Welwyn were shell-shocked, but fought back in the second half. The game was on a knife-edge until David Haston (OP 2006) and Aristide Goualin scored tries - effectively wrapping-up the victory in a 25-14 win to stay top of the league. The RFU Senior Vase campaign also kicked off in November with an away victory in deepest Essex to beat South Woodham Ferrers 32-22 in difficult conditions. Sam Codrington was again outstanding scoring a hat-trick to take his early season tally to a spectacular seventeen tries in nine games.

The OP Saints (2nd XV) enjoyed an excellent start to the season with a pre-season victory over old rivals HAC. It was a tight affair, winning 31-30 with Joe Gleeson (OP 2004), Matt Davis (OP 2007) and Liam Dolan (OP 2009) excelling. This was backed up with good league wins away at Bank of England, 18-7, and Hammersmith and Fulham (20-15). In the latter fixture both Nahi Dib (OP 2011) and Pierce Kavanagh (OP 2011) played very well out of position, bringing their physicality to the centres. John-Ross Mach (OP 2005) also started the season superbly, twice getting



Joe Codrington (OP 2002)

"Man of the Match" as a result of his work rate, turnovers and Zimbabwean flair. Recent fixtures have proved tougher, losing to London Cornish, HAC and Belsize Park, but there have been a number of injuries to disrupt the squad and there is no doubt that the push for promotion can be continued.

As always the Club welcomes any and all support at matches or in the form of sponsorship. For more information about anything to do with the club, please visit www.rugby-in-ealing.co.uk or send us an email at: oldpriorianrfc@googlemail.com

By Edd Conway (OP 2005)

100th Game Celebrations

On Saturday, 13 October 2012 the Old Priorian Rugby Football Club (OPRFC) celebrated a Club Day to honour the one-hundredth 1st XV fixture since the Club reformed in 2008. As it was, the OP Saints took centre stage after the 1st XV opposition dropped out. A highlight was also managing to field a 3rd XV team with long lost Old Priorian players such as

Martin Campbell, John Campbell and Will Lunn gracing the pitch in a good victory. The resulting Race Night was hugely successful and well attended with at least 60 people remaining from the 150 or so that had been present at various times during the day.

A great day and much thanks and praise must go to Adam Hanke (OP 2004) and

Nick Farren (OP 1999) for organising it as well as Alex Perreira-Inacio (OP 2000) and Nick Hallisey (OP 2005) for their help throughout the day. Our sincere thanks also to the School for their continued support and allowing us to use the facilities for slightly longer than normal.

Here is to the next hundred matches!

AGM and Memorial Mass

The Annual General Meeting of The Old Priorian Association was held on Saturday, 10 November 2012 in the Benet Club, Ealing Abbey. Seventeen members attended with apologies for absence received from another twelve. Reports for the past year were received and it was proposed and carried that these reports should in future be sent by email only, before the AGM to all members whose email addresses we hold. In the election of Officers for 2012-2013, Paul Fagan (OP 1991), Lewis Hill (OP 1975) and Michael Ainslie (OP 1980) were all re-elected as President,

Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively. Frank Casali (OP 1984), Edward Conway (OP 2005), Brian Taylor, CB (OP 1960) and Peter Watson (OP 1952) were re-elected as Council Members. Malcolm Lewis (OP 1996), David Murphy (OP 1954) and Emma Whitehouse (OP 1998) retired from Council.

After the AGM we were joined by nine spouses, friends and four cadets from the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), under the command of Captain Alastair Grant, for our Annual Memorial Mass, which

was celebrated by our Chaplain, Dom Thomas Stapleford in the Newman Chapel. Our grateful thanks to the CCF cadets and to organist Cherry Willow-Pauls.

Lunch for all followed back in the Benet Club, where the manager, Giovanni Persano looked after us well (as he had done before the AGM) and Concetta Vager provided one of her usual excellent lunches.

*Richard Baker (OP 1959),
Assistant Administrator*

The Old Priorian Award

The Old Priorian Award is a discretionary annual bursary presented by The Old Priorian Association, the purpose of which is to enable its Members to undertake meritorious activities within their first five years of leaving St Benedict's School.

The beneficiary of this year's Award was Ben Elliott (OP 2007), who submitted his application after reading about previous Award beneficiaries Sinead Leahy (OP 2008) and Nathan Garnham

(OP 2010) in our April 2012 Newsletter.

Ben is currently a law student and over the past few years has been involved in a human rights organisation which campaigns to improve access to justice and human rights in South America. The Award helped Ben with the costs associated with a trip to Botoga, where he joined an international delegation of human rights lawyers for a series of conferences, in an attempt to urge the Colombian government to improve respect for human rights in the country.

We are pleased to report that Ben is now home safely. His "Award Story" will be published in our Spring 2013 Newsletter.

The application deadline for the 2013 Old Priorian Award is Sunday, 30 June 2013 and all applications must be sent in writing and addressed to the Association Office - either by way of post or email. All applications will be acknowledged.

For more information on the Award, please visit our website theOPA.org or contact the Association Office.

Award Stories: An Expedition to the Peruvian Amazon

Heading out on an expedition to the Amazon rainforest has always been a personal ambition of mine. So when the British Exploring Society (BES) offered me a place on a five-week expedition to the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve in the Peruvian Amazon, I leapt at the chance. I must first thank the Old Priorian Association for this Award and give special thanks both to fellow Old Priorian Chris Stevenson (OP 1964) for his kind support and advice and to Natalie Shaw, a Geography teacher at St Benedict's, for her support and time spent in helping me to put together my applications for funding.

A long-haul flight from Heathrow took us to Iquitos, Peru where we spent a few days before leaving for the village of San Martin. From there, we left by canoe to truly begin our expedition and we spent the entire week canoeing up the Yanaquillo River, a constantly meandering tributary of the Amazon River. The banks were covered by foliage and enormous trees, many of which bore distinct watermarks. These indicated water levels of just a few weeks earlier and stretched up to ten feet high on some of the trunks. This really did reinforce the feeling of remoteness, as the entire area would have been submerged a mere two months ago. As we canoed upriver, there were times where my canoe was surrounded by hundreds of fish; they literally became the surface of the water and created an incredible noise around us. In that moment we perceived the river as a living and breathing thing.

We were constantly reminded of the bountiful nature of the Amazon both in our ability to catch fish almost instantly

and on the occasions when Amazon River Dolphins would swim alongside our canoes on our journey upstream. Such events reminded us of the environmental value of this place. Our guide, Antonio, took us to his plantation where he grew rare trees, many of which had medicinal properties. The fact that a local man had undertaken such a forward thinking project emphasised to us how valuable the rainforest is to its people. Antonio told us of his worries about the future of the jungle with growing demand for resources threatening the natives' way of life.

During the second week, we would wake up at five o'clock in the morning and trek through the jungle, carrying twenty-five kilograms of kit each, before finding a suitable spot to set up camp each day. On some days, we would venture out for hours on day walks to appreciate the wildlife. We saw a wide variety of creatures, most notably spider and squirrel monkeys, which would show off their incredible acrobatics and inquisitive nature by coming within a few feet of us.

The week also provided some interesting surprises. For example, one camp was

next to a river filled with two-metre long electric eels; we could even hear them at night, electrocuting their prey! However, the biggest surprise of all was stumbling upon a six month-old female Amazonian manatee stranded in a small mud pool in a dry oxbow lake. Because of the animal's rarity, our guide thought she was worth saving so we carried her about five hundred metres to the river where we awaited the arrival of someone from science camp to measure her and release her into the main river. This was easily the most satisfying moment of the entire trip; none of us could have anticipated witnessing something so remarkable.

Nevertheless, that week certainly was



Water supplied from a lianas



Nathan and a caiman nicknamed "Rex"



Preparing for a canoe race

the most physically demanding. On one occasion, after rolling into a clearing after a full day of trekking, we found ourselves with a whole host of tasks to complete - such as collecting water, cooking dinner and setting up the tarp - by six o'clock in the evening, by which time everyone had to be under their mosquito nets. Staying out after this time would otherwise become an uncomfortably sanguine affair. This taught us all a great deal about teamwork, leadership and initiative, which was all highly rewarding. We eventually trekked our way back to science camp (a base camp with a main hut), where we spent the third week - a blissful end to my nomadic existence. The entire week was spent collecting data along four land transects and three water transects along Cocha Wrier, a large oxbow lake. Recording along the land transects is a tricky affair as generally one stands there overwhelmed with bird song, but unable to see a thing. Fortunately, we were accompanied by a Peruvian scientist who could instantly recognise bird sounds and their distance. I even managed to learn a few bird calls myself by the end of the week.

In comparison, the water transect consisted of catching and measuring fish in an attempt to count vast flocks of migrating Great Egret and cormorants. We counted well over a thousand birds each day. We also went out on nightly

excursions onto Cocha Wruri to catch and record caiman (a very large reptile, often reaching four meters long), which was particularly exciting.

Over the course of the expedition, one hundred and sixty-one different species of birds were recorded, which is a significant increase on readings taken in the previous year. Camera traps were also setup along each transect, one of which photographed an ocelot (a wild cat also known as the "dwarf leopard"). It is generally difficult to determine how biodiverse these areas are, as there is a real shortage of manpower to carry out such surveys. But this made our efforts all the more rewarding, as it felt as though we were really making a contribution to scientific understanding. However, there was also a less welcome surprise that week - a wildfire started by a carelessly thrown cigarette and exacerbated by the unusually dry weather. Nobody realised the peril that we were in until the fire had covered an area of more than fifteen feet, by which time we could literally hear the blaze! Everybody had to drop their mess tins and run for the river with pots and buckets. The next hour was frantic, until we eventually put the fire out.

The final week was spent living and working with the indigenous Cocama people in Bolivar, a small fishing village. During the week our group took part in

community projects such as reconstructing a boat, building a small house and a canoe. Two friends and I also spent every evening teaching English to the local schoolteacher, which was great fun. I also spent lots of time spear fishing with the resident fishermen, which provided a great deal of excitement; we would silently canoe behind the prey before raising our spears for the throw.

The week ended with a fun day that included a football match (which we lost 6-5), a three-legged race, a "welly throwing" competition and a canoe race (which we lost, unsurprisingly). Nevertheless, it was great fun and well received by the somewhat bewildered villagers. We eventually departed by boat, heading back to Iquitos where we spent our remaining few days exploring Peru. We visited Belen Market, a colourful market located in the floating city of Belen near Iquitos, which was both fascinating and shocking. Along with the usual goods one might find, we discovered an assortment of illegal jungle meats - caiman, snakes and turtles. There was even a jaguar skin on display. We could not believe how blatantly locals were trading illegal goods; it provided a sobering end to what was otherwise the most enjoyable and rewarding trip of my life.

By Nathan Garnham (OP 2010)

Nathan Garnham (OP 2010)

I left St Benedict's in 2010 and in the September before I left for university I climbed and summited Mount Kilimanjaro on the Rongai route; I was 18 at the time. This is still something I am incredibly proud of and something which I found more physically demanding than the Amazon.

Two weeks later I started to read history at Exeter University. I am now in my third and final year. My historical interests primarily involve imperialism in the late Victorian period. In relation to this, I am writing my dissertation on the Victorian "soldier-saint" and hero, Major-General Charles George Gordon,

CB (also known as Chinese Gordon, Gordon Pasha, and Gordon of Khartoum). I am examining what his "martyr-like" death in Khartoum conveys about Victorian attitudes to heroes and their empire.

I am also a keen member of the university's fencing team, a sport I took up at St Benedict's.

After university, I intend to take a gap year and hopefully take part in another expedition and do some general travelling. I intend to visit India and head back to Sub-Saharan Africa. So far my plan for another expedition is to head

somewhere far more arid than the Amazon; travelling across the Sahara desert is something I find particularly appealing. I have a real passion for travel and adventure and I hope to carry on making these sorts of trips all my life. Kilimanjaro and the Amazon have given me a real taste for it!

After my gap year, I hope to pursue a career as a solicitor in the commercial property sector. In combination with this, I would ideally like to be an amateur travel writer in my spare time and carry on my great interest in travel in some form.

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Old Priorian tennis returns to Perivale

After an absence of several years, an Old Priorian tennis tournament returned to the St Benedict's Playing Fields at Perivale on Sunday, 1 July 2012, to coincide with the annual School versus Old Priorians cricket match. Open to all, the tennis tournament featured a total of twenty-eight players, including pupils, staff, parents and Old Priorians - roughly in equal numbers. With nine tennis courts boasting the fabulous new all-weather surface and two additional hard courts, there was plenty of space to host such an event.

The format was "American Drive", which is essentially doubles matches of seven games, after which some of the players switch courts for their next matches - depending on whether they have lost or won. This format ensures a good mix of opponents, whilst allowing players of all levels to compete against each other.

At times the blustery winds did play havoc with some of the matches, but the calibre of tennis was generally of a good standard and matches were played in very good spirit. In the sunshine though, the Playing Fields were a sight to behold, with tennis courts full of action, the 1st XI cricket pitch bustling with the School versus Old Priorians cricket match and the lower field packed to capacity with spectators and Junior School Kwik Cricket players.

After six gruelling rounds of tennis matches the winners emerged and Chris Cleugh, Headmaster of St Benedict's School, awarded the prizes, as follows:

Best Staff Member

The prize for Best Staff Member went to Eddie Stewart with 21 points, with David Brooks the runner-up with 18 points.

Best Old Priorian

The prize for Best Old Priorian went to David Gorard with 30 points, with Mike Ainslie the runner-up with 29 points.

Best Parent

The prize for Best Parent went to Matt Pye with 32 points, with Liz Saunders the runner-up with 24 points.

Best Pupil

The prize for Best Pupil went to Henry St John with 34 points, with George Crowther the runner-up with 32 points. My sincere thanks to the pupils who helped keep a tally of the scores, whilst also keeping us refreshed with drinks, as well as to Gillian Comyn for her organisational help in making the tournament such a success. This was hopefully the first of many future Old Priorian tennis tournaments.

By Mike Ainslie (OP 1980)

Golf Day at Royal Mid-Surrey

A field of thirty-three assembled on Thursday, 14 June 2012 (one of only a few dry days in June) for the annual Old Priorian Golf Day at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club, Richmond.

There was a fairly even split between Old Priorians, parents and friends, which is traditionally the make-up of this event. And with that in mind, the annual competition will continue as a joint Old Priorian Association and Society of Parents and Friends (SPF) event from now on.

The recent weather had helped produce plentiful rough around the fairways and with the strong wind facing us, many were set for some tough times - particularly towards the end of the day when we didn't quite escape the rain. Nevertheless, it seems that everyone managed to complete the 18-hole challenge with tempers intact. Refreshments and dinner followed the competition in the superb facilities at Royal Mid-Surrey, which restored some battered spirits. It was then onto the prizes.

Scoring had been relatively modest, with the individual leaderboard headed by Phil Hopley (now, which club does he play at?) with a handicap-equalling round of 36 points. In second place was

Tim Greenwood with 33 points, with third place going to Graeme Tulloch with 32 points, followed by Paul Stewart with 31 points and Simon Donan with 30 points. To save any embarrassment, no further scores will be published here!

The "Longest Drive" competition was won by Tim Greenwood with a drive that measured about three miles and "Nearest the Pin" was picked up by Paddy Smith. The team competition resulted in a tie, with Phil Hopley, Anthony Pirredu, Shane Samarawikrema and Stephen Clancy just losing out by the narrowest of

margins to John O'Sullivan, Rory Boyle, Steve Davies and Tommy Kavanagh on the "back nine" count-back.

Our thanks to the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club for hosting us again, for the sterling support of Mary and Phil Nolan in running the event on the day and our photographer Peter Watson. The Association will be co-hosting another golf day in 2013 and we hope many more will join us for what is always a very relaxed and fun event in some exceptionally good company.

By Mike Ainslie (OP 1980)



The Winners



Strauss is wrong to play county cricket, claims Vaughan

Ex-England captain says current incumbent is on hiding to nothing and should return for first Test – when he backs him to come good

By **STEPHEN BRENKLEY**
Cricket Correspondent

One topic above all continues to dominate the early season. It has been fuelled by scores of 0 and 6 and if the flames are not yet engulfing Andrew Strauss, only one repellent on earth can extinguish them. He needs a Test hundred and he needs one smartish.

Advice, guidance and criticism are pouring in and the supply increased last week with his two failures for Middlesex against Durham at Lord's. He faced 27 balls and was twice bowled by Graham Onions, a fast bowler with points to prove who was thus proving them. Michael Vaughan knows precisely what Strauss is going through.

Three years ago, Vaughan was the captain of England, struggling for international runs and desperate for one more crack at Australia. His batting average was heading south and his side had recently lost series against India and Sri Lanka. Strauss's England lost to Pakistan in the winter and the series-levelling victory against Sri Lanka earlier this month may yet prove a more significant event than it seemed at the time.

"With every failure it gets harder," said Vaughan. "Even in county games, every low score results in a headline that hits you and you get asked about it more often and it becomes a mental battle. His feet are moving all right and his game is in good order, but when you're out of form you think about the one thing that can go wrong."

In 2008, Vaughan came back from a dreadful tour of New Zealand out of form and out of luck. He was still unquestionably the man to lead the side because by and large they were still winning and as the man who regained the Ashes, he still had abundant cred-

it. Just like Strauss. Vaughan is hugely supportive of his successor and his objectives but not sure where the runs might come from, especially in an English season where the ball seems destined to move unoblogically about. And every low score will merely bring the flames closer. The most quoted statistic in English cricket is that Strauss has scored one hundred in his last 50 Test innings, none in his last 25.

"For a player of his experience and his age, another net is not going to solve the problem," said Vaughan. "Neither is runs for his county. He went into the Pakistan series with runs and into the Sri Lanka series with runs, so it has been proven that runs away from the Test arena are irrelevant for him."

"He just has to score runs come 17 May and the first Test [against the West

"If there is one ground that Strauss wants to go to needing a hundred it is Lord's"

Indies], and I do think he will. I just think he's got more to give and he's not at the end of the road yet. When you give up one form of the captaincy [the one-day game], you give something away, but with Strauss he still just loves it and he wants to play against Australia again next year.

"With a goal like that it can keep you hungry, for me I just wasn't fit enough and wasn't playing well enough to keep going and I woke up one morning and knew the answer. When that morning is for Strauss I just don't know."

Vaughan was at Lord's last week for Middlesex's match and remains perplexed at Strauss's appearance. He was a hostage to fortune and runs in the match might not have counted for

much because he will not play again until next week.

"He's got two weeks off now and then he plays again, why not just play in the two games before the Test match? I really don't read anything into his failures in that game at all, I don't think he should have been playing. He's just going to have to work his bollocks off and get a bit of luck along the way. He might need a dropped catch, because he'll get nothing from lbw decisions because of DRS, but just the odd thing to go his way."

"The one thing about Andrew Strauss is that he is tough and he's saying the right things, he still thinks there is a chance to regain his best form and he could do."

Vaughan briefly doused the blaze three years ago by scoring a hundred against New Zealand at Lord's, marked by its lack of trademark elegance. He suggested that playing the opening Test at Lord's may help Strauss as it helped him. The ground is a favourite for both of them. Vaughan scored six centuries there, Strauss has four including the 112 he made on his Test debut and the scintillating 161 against Australia 51 innings ago.

"If there was one ground he wants to go to needing a hundred it is Lord's. It was the same for me, I arrived at Lord's and I did a Q&A on the Tuesday night and at the dinner I said I felt like I would score a hundred that week because I felt comfortable."

"He'll arrive there and think, 'This is my ground', he's up against a West Indies attack that he would fancy [and] they might get their lengths wrong. But I would say he'll need some ugly runs first. If he scores a hundred all this talk will go away, but until he gets it, for a player of his ability, it will be a question mark."

"Strauss is very much like I am and as England captain you become a bit of a politician and you know how to answer the questions," said Vaughan. "You sit in a press conference and you know how to take questions and send as positive a message as possible. You can play a straight bat and get through it, but inwardly he will be desperate to get some runs."

Vaughan of course made his ugly hundred at Lord's against New Zealand but it was a temporary reprieve. Five Test matches later he resigned. Strauss is determined to continue but he will be aware of the history.

Michael Vaughan supports the NatWest Locals v Legends T20 series, a nationwide campaign giving NatWest CricketForce Fundraiser registered clubs the chance to raise club funds and take on Vaughan's NatWest Legends XI this August. Bring the game to your club by visiting natwest.com/cricket.



Michael Vaughan (right) says he woke up one morning and knew it was all over – but he doesn't believe that time has come yet for Strauss (left) GETTY



OLD EALING HANDS KEEP GAME IN RUDE HEALTH

Bob Fisher, John Lindley and Alan Price are three very wise men playing on in their 70s. They tell **Brian Viner** how the camaraderie of club cricket has kept them at the crease

In global cricketing terms, "caught Fisher bowled Lindley" is not quite on a par with "caught Marsh bowled Lillee". But in the lengthy annals of Ealing Cricket Club there is no scorebook entry more familiar, except for lots and lots of runs after the name of AL Price. And this is not an entirely parochial story, for there is surely no other cricket club in the country, maybe even the world, that can boast three men who have been playing together for 57 seasons. Yet when Bob Fisher, John Lindley and Alan Price turn out for Ealing fourths or fifths this year, they will be continuing an on-field camaraderie that began in 1955 in the club's first-ever colts game, against Finchley.

Fisher was 16, Lindley 14 and Price 13. Today they are 73, 71 and 70, and inevitably a little creakier, but still as fit as septuagenarians have any right to be. Fisher, a wicketkeeper with 1,219 catches and 510 stumpings to his name (to put that latter figure in perspective, the aforementioned Rod Marsh made 88 career stumpings, Alan Knott 207 and Bob Taylor a mighty 264), insists that he has no more trouble bending his knees than he ever did. More perspective is required: Lindley's exact contemporary Geoffrey Boycott hung up his boots in 1986.

Manifestly, we are not comparing like with like. But these three were no slouches with leather and willow. Fisher and Price were capped by Middlesex 2nd XI and in their first-team days in the fiercely-competitive Middlesex League they came up against Mike Brearley, Mike Gatting and Mark Ramprakash, playing respectively for Brentham, Brondesbury and Stanmore. When in May 2004 a match was held to mark their 50th season of playing together, Gatting made a guest appearance. It takes an icon of Middlesex cricket to recognise one – or rather, three.

Gatting was some way from being a twinkle in his father's eye when Fisher and Price opened the batting in that inaugural colts match in 1955. It was the younger of the cricket-mad

teenagers who stole the show, Price's half-century helping to seal victory by eight wickets. Those were the first 50 runs of a tally that now stands at 36,996. A batting all-rounder, he has also taken 3,575 wickets. Lindley, a quickish bowler in his pomp who these days bowls off three or four paces and puts it "where they don't like it", has 4,081 wickets to his name and, not insignificantly, 18,395 runs.

I spent a convivial hour chatting with all three men in Ealing CC's handsome old pavilion last week. They are an instantly likeable trio, quietly proud of their remarkable record and, for all that they still pull on their whites as enthusiastically as ever, somehow representative of a vanished age. They have watched with sadness the decline of the post-match social scene that used to be integral to club cricket, and which helped to cement a bond that extends to their wives and families.

"We made countless friends from other cricket clubs, too, because after the match you were expected to socialise with the opposition as well as your own team," said Fisher. "That doesn't happen now." Even the once-hallowed tradition of a player celebrating a fifty or five wickets by buying a jug of beer for his team-mates has fizzled out.

But not everything has changed for the worse. In 1958, when the first non-white player joined Ealing CC – an Indian called Hari Ali – there was not just huffiness on the part of some members, but actual resignations. It was not the venerable club's finest hour, but at least the door had been nudged ajar. Now, Ealing CC's teams are at least as multi-ethnic as the shoppers on the nearby Broadway.

As for other positive developments, the trio also acknowledge a marked general improvement in the ability of youngsters, who benefit from coaching that in some cases they themselves have facilitated. In that jubilee season of 2004 a fund was set up in their names, intended to sponsor youngsters unable to afford the cost of coaching. "Each season, Alan, John and I get requests



"I sent him a picture of him from the Evening News. Bradman signed it and sent it back"

from colts managers for deserving causes," Fisher told me. "We have not refused a request yet."

Whether the present crop of youngsters are quite as devoted to the game as they were at the same age is doubtful. Price recalled going to see Denis Compton in his golden season of 1947, when the Brylcreem Boy averaged more than 90 and scored 18 centuries. "But the day I went, to watch Middlesex against Northants at Lord's, he got his only nought of the summer. As soon as he was out, that was the end of my day."

An even more momentous nought followed the next summer, in the England v Australia Test at The Oval. Fisher went to the match, but wasn't there to see Bradman's famous second-ball duck. However, he did encounter the great man.

"I asked him if he would sign my autograph book and he said no, but that if I wrote to him at the Waldorf Hotel, he would. So I sent a picture of him from the *Evening News*, which he signed

and sent back." It remains the most cherished item in Fisher's impressive collection of sporting memorabilia, although not quite the most valuable, for he also has the autographs of all the Busby Babes.

It is his own playing experiences, though, that he cherishes most, and in particular the rapport with his two old friends, who like him are minded to make a pact: that when one of them feels the need to retire, they all will. There's no imminent sign of it, though, and nor do they have to trawl back to their youth to find all their greatest moments. Price's finest innings, a Compton-esque 200 not out at Beaconsfield, dates only from 1998, when he was 56.

Maybe it is distance that most threatens their cricketing longevity, rather than loss of health or form. Ten years ago, Lindley and his wife moved to Dorset – not that the 113-mile drive, each way, has prevented him from turning out for Ealing every weekend. Now they are planning to move to Lincolnshire, to be closer to their daughters, which will present a somewhat trickier journey. "But still only 117 miles," he added, cheerfully.

He was a financial administrator in his working life, while Fisher ran an office-cleaning company and Price was an engineer. "I did have an offer to join the Lord's groundstaff," said Price, "but my dad told me no way. There was no money in the game." What the game has offered him and the others is boundless pleasure, special friendships, and a claim to genuinely unique status.

They haven't always played in the same Ealing team: astonishingly, Price was a first XI player from 1958 to 1996, longer than the others, though Fisher did captain the first team for a record nine years, and in 1971 led them to the final of the National Knockout Cup at Lord's. But they started together and one day they will finish together and that surely, at the very least, will merit the revival of a lamented ritual: three amazing achievements, marked by three jugs.

Ramprakash pays the penalty for obscene language

By **MARC PADGETT**

Mark Ramprakash has done a lot of talking recently – irking every bowler in the land by moaning about how hard it is to make runs in England in April – and his mouth got him into trouble again yesterday when he was reprimanded by the England and Wales Cricket Board for his bad language.

The Surrey batsman was given a three-point penalty under the ECB's

disciplinary code after being reported by the umpires during last week's LV= County Championship match against Worcestershire for a level one breach relating to "obscene, offensive or insulting" language.

Ramprakash now has six penalty points to his name, with the accumulation of nine in any two-year period leading to a suspension.

On the pitch today, Ramprakash's Surrey host Durham, while defending

champions Lancashire return to the scene of their epic county championship



MARK RAMPRAKASH
Surrey batsman now has six points against his name. Three more and it's a ban

victory last season – Taunton, weather permitting – but this time they are desperate to get a first win of the season on the board. The Red Rose are boosted by the return of Tom Smith. Elsewhere in the First Division, pacesetters Nottinghamshire and Warwickshire are away at Worcestershire and Sussex.

In the third Test in Dominica, the West Indies crept above 200 but conceded a big first-innings lead to Australia.

John Lindley (top), Alan Price and Bob Fisher DAVID ASHDOWN

This article, about John Lindley (OP 1959) is reproduced with kind permission of The Independent

International FutNet

On an inclement day in Ealing, when it was too muddy for a kick-about on the grass, Old Priorians Paul Whelan, Joe Monks and Richard de Cintra decided to make use of the tennis courts at Pitshanger Park for a hybrid tennis game with their football. Having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, they subsequently discovered that the game had existed as a sport for over ninety years; this combination of football, volleyball and tennis is called FutNet and has two main governing bodies in the Czech Republic.

In October 2011, the town of Corte in the French island of Corsica hosted the inaugural Men's FutNet European Championship under the patronage of the European FutNet Association (EFTA), organised by the French FutNet Federation. The three Old Priorians were accepted to represent the England international team in the competition. They have subsequently played at international tournaments in Belfast and, most recently, Prague.

The English FutNet Association team

has now grown to include other Old Priorians, namely Chris Whelan, James Oldfield and Elliott Yandzio. They have organised a few one-day tournaments at the Sports Hall at St Benedict's and occasionally travel to mainland Europe for matches, having played in France and Austria. But, as there is currently no external funding, it can become an expensive hobby and so the Old Priorians like to just play together in the Sports Hall whenever possible.

By Richard de Cintra (OP 2010)

Late 1950s Vintage Reunion Lunch in Soho

The school motto, 'A Minimis Incipere' describes very well the start of the decade lunches that The Old Priorian Association has been encouraging. About six years ago a group of five Old Priorians decided, after a celebratory gathering, that it would be worthwhile getting together on a regular basis. And so was conceived the notion of Old Priorians of late 1950s vintage getting together for lunch twice a year.



That was good! – Maurice Mulcahy, Pat Cox and Simon Donan

Shampers Wine Bar & Restaurant in Kingly Street, Soho (just off Regent Street) was chosen as the venue; it has a bar area where we can gather, before adjourning to the restaurant downstairs to partake of good food and wine, with ample accommodation for a (hopefully) growing number of Old Priorians. The group was led by Ian Blackaller, John Lindley, Kevin Hannigan, David Randall and Anthony Phillips - covering vintages 1957 to 59 between them.

Over the last six years, the group has steadily grown with Old Priorians now travelling from around the country and abroad to meet, reminisce, enjoy one another's company and have some good food and wine. In many instances our guests meet for the first time since they left school in years between the mid-1950s and the early 1960s. By Thursday, 25 October 2012 numbers had steadily increased and it was pleasing to record the highest attendance - 29, with a number apologising for their absence.



Desmond Baker with twins Richard Baker and Anthony Baker



Two of the "originals" - Kevin Hannigan and John Lindley

We have almost taken over the whole of the basement for dining!

For the record: Ian Blackaller, Richard Baker, Simon Donan, Kevin Hannigan, Anthony Baker, Brian Clancy, Brian Taylor, Julian Hopper (from Australia), Anthony Phillips, John Maguire, David Randell, Brendan Caulfield, Basil Nickerson, Mike Henderson, John Lindley, Tony Trigg, Jim Dapre*, Peter Bingham-Daly, Peter Fowles*, Pat Cox, Gordon Wilson, Brian Lee, Peter Delaloye, Brian Watkins*, Jim Anscomb, Desmond Baker*, Tony Sparks, Maurice Mulcahy and Michael Rapazzini (from Italy). *For the first time.

We would like to thank The Old Priorian Association for its generous support and encouragement over the years. The next gathering will be in April 2013, followed by another in November close to the AGM and the Memorial Mass. Further details will be published in the spring 2013 Newsletter.

By Anthony Phillips (OP 1958)

Careers Evening in the Parish Centre

On Tuesday, 10 July 2012 the Old Priorian Rugby Football Club (OPRFC) ran its first careers evening, which took place in Ealing Abbey Parish Centre (kindly arranged by the School) and brought together “recent leavers” from St Benedict’s and older alumni with some of the players and supporters of the Club.

The format of the evening was quite informal; after a few introductory words and greetings, we split up into smaller groups and people were encouraged to introduce themselves and discuss their areas of interest and experience, as well as any particular opportunities they were interested in or could arrange, before breaking into more general discussions. These networking groups were rotated every half hour or so to ensure that everybody had the opportunity to meet and speak with everyone else.

The evening certainly was useful to the younger alumni. It provided an insight into the career opportunities available to them and the extent of support provided by the Old Priorian network. It also gave them an employers’ perspective of the benefits that St Benedict’s education offers, as well as highlighted the need to start thinking about post-university life. A significant number of those present knew each other through their time at

School or through having played rugby together, but in many cases people weren’t aware of exactly what their friends were doing in their careers. For the younger alumni, this link through rugby was especially useful for “breaking the ice”, as was being able to speak to those who had graduated in the previous few years and recently completed applications or training schemes. Several current students seemed to be intrigued by career options they had not previously considered or really understood before.

The evening was also useful for many of the older Old Priorians, who were primarily there to offer advice, but used the opportunity to renew old acquaintances, finding out more about people they had perhaps known for years. Club members attending represented banking, insurance, management, accountancy, public service, law, construction, real estate, journalism and other industries, as well as students of a range of subjects and at various stages in their courses.

Soft drinks were provided by the Club to help things along, but quite a few members retired afterward to the Benet Bar to continue their discussions. As a direct result of the evening, one recent graduate and current player started work experience the next day. Moreover, a



OPRFC Careers Evening

number of people arranged “shadowing” or further support during summer 2012, as well as secured offers of help with applications for Christmas work experience schemes.

At present the Club is planning to hold another event shortly before Christmas 2012, when the students have settled back at university and start to think about graduating. We hope to attract as many Old Priorians - old and new - as possible. The Club would like to extend special thanks to Frank Casali and Phil Kavanagh from the OPA, and Alan Aubeelack from The Society of Parents and Friends (SPF), who very generously gave up an evening to attend and share some of their experience and advice, and really engaged with the younger members.

By Benedict Horan (OP 2005)

St Benedict’s School News

Saturday, 1 September 2012 was a historic day for St Benedict’s School. The School, which has been under the Trusteeship of the Monks of Ealing since its foundation in 1902, is now an independent Charity with a lay Chairman, Mr Patrick Murphy-O’Connor (OP 1976). The School will continue to promote Catholic Benedictine values by living out its mission of “Teaching a way of living”. Monks will continue to work in the School and the Abbot of Ealing and two members of the monastic community will be on the Governing Body.

Over the summer holiday the Property Services Department had worked very hard to complete a number of projects. In time for the beginning of the Michaelmas term, the new Orchard Hall Servery and Conference Room were handed over for use, the Junior School

MUGA (multi use games area) was completed and the Senior School Library was extended and renovated. Now renamed as the St Scholastica Study Centre, the Library was formally blessed and dedicated by Abbot Martin on Wednesday, 14 November 2012. Headmaster Chris Cleugh reaffirmed his intention to continue investing in the school, so that pupils and staff can have the best facilities possible.

This summer’s public examination results emphasised the high academic achievement at the school. The largest cohort in the school’s history of 95 students in the Upper Sixth achieved a record average points score of 360, with nearly 43% A*/A grades. Twenty-five students achieved a minimum of three A*/A grades. There were also excellent results in the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) with two A* grades

and six A grades. At GCSE previous records also tumbled with an all-time high average points score per pupil of 67.3 and with top performer Sebastian Strug achieving thirteen A* grades. These and many other successes were celebrated at the Senior School Prize Giving on Thursday, 13 September 2012, where the Guest of Honour was distinguished Old Priorian, Brian Taylor, CB (OP 1960). Lord Patten of Barnes (Chris Patten, OP 1962) presented the six inaugural Lord Patten Scholars with their awards on Monday, 17 September 2012 and the Abbot Scholars received their awards from Abbot Martin in October. The first Extended Project Qualification presentations were given by Jarrod Joshua and Harry McAdam and the Trethowan Society presented its first student lecture by Aidan Fusco (Upper Fifth) titled “Language as the liberation of mankind”.

The start of the Year of Faith was marked on the first day of Michaelmas term with a special Mass in the Abbey, concelebrated by Abbot Martin and other members of the Monastic Community working in the School. A Vocations Fair in October was set around the theme of "Who do I want to become?". Fundraising for charity has included: Junior School ladies taking part in the Shine Half Marathon, a Macmillan Coffee Morning, with a cake sale in the Cloisters and the Big Band playing at Ealing Hospital, the SVP "Rich Man Poor Man" meal and the Roberts House charity day in aid of Meadow House Hospice.

There has been a huge amount going on outside the classroom. In the Junior School, Book Week was celebrated with great gusto in October; there were welcome assemblies for the lower years; Forms 1 and 2 visited the 1940s World War 2 Experience; Form 2 (Junior School) triumphed over the Third Form (Senior School) in the European Day of Languages Quiz and Black History Month was celebrated in October with an African dance workshop. The junior fencers were victorious in their battle with local rivals Aston House. Our boys won the Ealing Cross Country Championships with our girls coming

second, giving St Benedict's Junior School overall victory. The girls notched up a notable victory in netball against local rivals St Augustine's.

At the Primary Schools Proms in the Royal Albert Hall the Electro 5 Ensemble, comprising Junior and Senior School pupils under the direction of Music teacher Ben Gale, was first on stage and produced a stunning performance that featured on ITV News. In the Junior School the Instruments Live1 series of concerts began with Piano, while in the Senior School the GCSE group kicked off the regular lunchtime recitals. The inaugural Open Mic night was a huge success and the Music teachers put on a concert at the start of the year to set the standard very high. Both Junior School and Senior School pupils took part in the Big Draw in October, brightening the Cloisters with their artwork on the theme of Mythical Animals. The Environment Committees of pupils and staff have various initiatives planned, a Fairtrade sale has already been held and Senior School pupils took part in the 'Free Your Feet' Challenge just before half term.

In the Senior School the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) had

successful field days. The DofE Gold Award participants completed their expedition to the Peak District while the top CCF cadets proved themselves on a demanding one-week Cadet Leadership Course held at Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park, the Army Cadet Force's national centre of excellence. The annual Co-Curricular Fair introduced the new Third Form to numerous clubs and societies - over eighty currently on offer. Younger pupils enjoyed a sailing holiday in the Isle of Wight over half term while older students took part in a weekend Mock United Nations conference at Cheadle Hulme School in Cheshire. The 1st XV won a thrilling Daily Mail Cup encounter 30-24 against Aylesbury Grammar School to progress to the fourth round. Amelia Stewart (Upper 4) represented Great Britain at trampolining in her first international competition in Portugal. Christian Streatfield (Lower 5) and Max Mellor (Lower 4) became the first boys to be selected for Middlesex Development squads at Hockey, while Nick Romain (Upper 6) won Silver and Bronze medals, kayaking for Great Britain in the Flanders Cup in Belgium.

*By Marek Nalewajko
(Marketing Director, St Benedict's)*

In touch with us recently...

Since our last published newsletter the following Old Priorians have been in contact with the Association, mainly through the "Where Are You Now?" and "Find a Classmate" sections of our website:

Michael Ware (OP 1955)
United Kingdom

Benedict Heal (OP 1963)
Buckinghamshire

David Maxwell (OP 1965)
West Midlands

Peter Birkett (OP 1972)
The State of Texas, USA

Brian Lynch (OP 1978)
West Yorkshire

Steve O'Reilly (OP 1979)
Switzerland

Ian Potts (OP 1982)
London

Colin Corbett (OP 1988)
West Sussex

Sebastian Gorka (OP 1988)
The Commonwealth of Virginia, USA

Gabriele Roffi (OP 1989)
Città di Pavia, Italy

Kefyn Watkins (OP 1994)
British Columbia, Canada

Parashar Ramanuj (OP 2000)
East Sussex

Alexander Raccoon (OP 2002)
The State of Texas, USA

Nick Robinson (OP 2002)
Moscow, the Russian Federation

Greg Branagan (OP 2004)
London

Paul Holmes (OP 2004)
United Kingdom

Rodrigo Sanchez (OP 2004)
Middlesex

Tom Jewers (OP 2009)
Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China

Nathan Garnham (OP 2010)
London

Your News

We would like to launch a "Your News" section in our next Newsletter. 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.

Obituaries



Bernard Alfred Creamer

Bernard Alfred Creamer (1925-2012)

Bernard was the younger of two brothers who were at the School in the 1930s and early War years. Francis, the elder, was killed in action in 1944. Bernard was in the choir and during the School's difficult time in the early War years, he was Head Boy when Father Rupert Hall kept the School going.

He joined the Royal Air Force in 1943 and was sent to Canada to train for air crew, but was later transferred to a unit making models of targets to help the

bomber crews. He had always been keen on model-making from an early age and after the War he took it up as a career. In 1952 he made a scale model of Mount Everest for the Expedition which conquered this peak in the Queen's Coronation year. In 1955 he emigrated to Canada where he made a successful career working on models for various trade fairs, exhibitions, architects, etc - both in Canada and the USA.

He died on Friday, 23 March 2012 after a long battle with cancer.

By Barbara Murray (née Creamer)



Fr. Dunstan in contemplation

Dom Dunstan Watkins OSB (1920-2012)

Fr. Dunstan died peacefully on Wednesday, 17 October 2012, aged 92.

A monk of Ealing Abbey for more than 60 years, he began his teaching career at St Benedict's Senior School in 1955, where he taught French and Religious Education.

A House Master of Gervase House, he went on to become Division Master of the Upper IV and was subsequently appointed Headmaster of the Junior School in 1967. He retired in 1983.

May he rest on peace.

Simon Kusnierz (OP 2002)

Passed away on Friday, 15 June 2012, aged 28

Ethna Pegden

(School Secretary from 1984-2000)

Passed away on Friday, 16 November 2012, aged 72

Organising a Reunion

Reunions are now more popular than ever and remain a great way to get together with old friends and rekindle school memories. If you are curious about what your fellow alumni are doing, then we are here to help - in many ways. If you need any further information or would like our assistance with locating fellow alumni please contact us.

Who to Invite

Decide on the group that you would like to invite - former classmates, members of a sports club or society or a mixture of all of these and more.

There are no fixed rules and you can make the criteria as wide or as narrow as you choose. Remember, you should also consider if the invitation is open to friends, partners and children.

Style of Reunion

You will need to consider the timing for the reunion; if you are inviting people from overseas the date should be set early (perhaps up to a year in advance)

to allow people to arrange holidays around the reunion.

You should have an idea of a budget for the event and remember to consider all costs such as transport, car parking and accommodation and so on. Moreover, it is useful to find out how much people are prepared to pay before any final arrangements are made.

Another factor to consider is the format of the reunion; for example an informal meal and a chat in a pub, a tour of 'old haunts', both in Ealing and throughout West London, or a weekend full of activities - the only limitations are the budget and your imagination...

Making Contact

Let us know who you would like to contact and - with the help of your Year Marshal - we can forward invitations, letters or emails to your former classmates on your behalf. Naturally, replies can be sent directly to the organiser, but the Association will be more than happy to offer administration

support to help you coordinate your event.

It is useful to send out an initial letter or email to the group to gauge the level of interest for the reunion and what preferences there are towards location and the type of event. Also, an old photo from your school days enclosed with this letter may prompt fond memories to be relived and encourage attendance.

When you have made the final arrangements a second letter should be sent out informing the group of the date, location and so on - again, we will undertake this mailing for you if you wish. And remember to include an RSVP date to ensure that everyone replies in sufficient time.

Follow up

To encourage and inspire other reunions we would be delighted if you would write a brief summary about the reunion to be published on the website. Photos would also be very welcome.

Forthcoming Events

Some dates for your diary; full details to be published in our monthly email news and on our website:

Carols by Candlelight

On Saturday, 22 December 2012 Ealing Abbey Choir perform "Carols by Candlelight". The selection of carols - both old and new - will be performed in the candlelit surroundings of Ealing

Abbey in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. For tickets, search online "Carols By Candlelight, Ealing Abbey Choir".

Music Festival Finalists' Concert

On Friday, 8 March 2013 St Benedict's will host its annual Music Festival Finalists' Concert, a veritable musical extravaganza to showcase the immense

talent of its pupils.

The President's Dinner

On Wednesday, 20 March 2013 our annual black tie dinner will return to the Royal Over-Seas League in London. Our guest speaker will be Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976), who has recently been appointed Chairman of the Governing Board of St Benedict's.

Email Addresses

Do please remember to keep us informed of any email changes and encourage OPs who may not be on our emailing list to let us have their

addresses. Please DO NOT send us listings from your own address books - Data Protection prevents us from using them; addition of an email address to our

database requires an email from the person concerned!



The Old Priorian Association

Founded 1927

The Old Priorian Association

The Old Priorian Association was formed on Friday, 1 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

Paul Fagan (OP 1991)

President

Lewis Hill (OP 1975)

Honorary Secretary

Mike Ainslie (OP 1980)

Honorary Treasurer

Council Members

Frank Casali (OP 1984)

Edward Conway (OP 2005)

Brian Taylor, CB (OP 1960)

Peter Watson (OP 1952)

Ex-Officio Council Members

Fr Thomas Stapleford

Chaplain

Chris Cleugh

Headmaster, Senior School

Rob Simmons (OP 1987)

Headmaster, Junior School

Catherine de Cintra

Bursar, St Benedict's

Patrick Murphy-O'Connor (OP 1976)

Chairman, St Benedict's Governing Board

Giles Codrington (OP 1980)

Society of Parents & Friends

Margaret Moore

Administrator

Richard Baker (OP 1959)

Assistant Administrator

Marek Nalewajko

Marketing Director, St Benedict's

Full details about the Association and its activities can be found at: 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**