



The Old Priorian Association

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009

ST BENEDICT'S
54 EATON RISE
EALING
LONDON W5 2ES
TEL 020 8862 2249
FAX 020 8862 2199
opa@stbenedicts.org.uk
www.theopa.org

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Priorian Association will be held on Saturday 7th November 2009 at 10.30am in the Benet Bar, Parish Centre, Ealing Abbey. Immediately after the AGM our Annual Memorial Mass will be offered in the Abbey Church at 11.30am

for the repose of the souls of Old Priorians who gave their lives in war. In this Mass we also remember all former pupils, staff, parents and friends who have died in the last year. Drinks and Lunch will follow in the Benet Bar. Families are most welcome at the AGM,

Mass and Lunch.

To notify your intention to attend the AGM and book for the free lunch please email:

opa@stbenedicts.org.uk or telephone the OPA on 020 8862 2249

From The President, OPA

Dear Alumni,

I am pleased to be able to write to you through this newsletter and hope that the information in this edition helps to keep you in contact with The Association and connected to our ever increasing number of Old Priorians.

The aim of this newsletter is to ensure that you are kept up to date with The Association, your fellow alumni and developments at St Benedict's School. We would like to hear from more of you with suggestions about what you might like to

see in future editions, as well as your thoughts about what being an alumnus of St Benedict's School means to you.

We've had a number of very well-supported events over the past few months, details and photos of which are contained herein; on behalf of Council, I would like to thank you for your input, feedback and – above all – attendance at our sporting events, reunions and social events – both formal and informal.

And don't forget, if you are thinking of organising a reunion of your own, with classmates of your "vintage", please feel free to get in touch. To help get you started, why not take a look at the "organising a reunion" section on our

website: theOPA.org

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest members – the 2009 leavers – many of whom I met at the "Leavers' Party" earlier in the year; The Association wishes you every success for the future...

I trust that you will continue to support our events over the coming months and I look forward to seeing a "full house" again at The Royal Overseas League, St James's for The President's Dinner on Thursday 18th March 2010.

Best regards,

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

President's Dinner 2009

Thursday 19th March 2009 was the date of a glittering occasion as nearly 150 Old Priorians attended the President's Dinner which was held, as is customary, at the Royal Over-Seas League in Central London. Apart from the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones, the guests were treated to two splendid speeches from retiring teachers who together have clocked up 75 years of service to St Benedict's. Andy Hardman, Head of Classics, held the floor with a witty and characteristically deprecating speech, keeping the audience in fits of laughter as he summarised his time at St



President's Dinner 2009

The Old Priorian Newsletter always welcomes contributions from Old Boys and Girls about their experiences at the School, life after school and details of reunions. Please contact the Editor, Mary Keal c/o The Old Priorian Association, St Benedict's School, 54 Eaton Rise, Ealing, London W5 2ES



Robin Nonhebel

Benedict's. Robin Nonhebel, Head of History, demonstrated his gift for oratory, summing up the highlights of a distinguished career through fascinating and amusing anecdotes and jokes. The diners also heard from the Headmaster, Christopher Cleugh, who gave an update on a very successful and eventful



Andy Hardman

year at the School, from Nick Farren (OP 1999) who talked about the growth of OP rugby and of course Paul Fagan (OP 1991), President of the Association. Old Priorians of all ages thoroughly enjoyed the evening, from the sparkling aperitif on arrival, through the excellent three course meal and (for

many) on to the late bar.

Next year's dinner is booked for the same venue on Thursday 18th March 2010 so please diarise now!

Catherine de Cintra (Bursar)

John Sloboda (OP 1968)

After living and working in Staffordshire (Keele University Psychology Department) for 34 years, I took early retirement from full-time academia in 2008, and relocated back to London, where I am gradually renewing and revitalising London contacts.

I was in the first small cohort of St B's sixth formers to ever take A-level music (under Colin Atkinson's inspired mentorship), alongside a clutch of science subjects which got me into Oxford to read PPP. I was able to combine my science and arts interests by making contributions to the new field of psychology of music, a lifelong interest which culminated in my being elected to a Fellowship of the British Academy in 2004. As well as writing and researching, I developed a strong involvement in choral music, and have conducted and sung in many choirs, an activity which retirement will hopefully make more space for, as well as playing bridge, a game I first got appetite for in the Sixth form common room at St Bs! It doesn't take too much to induce me to turn up and sing somewhere or make up



John Sloboda

a table for Bridge! My "retirement job" is working for a number of initiatives to make it less likely that Britain and its allies will play the military card in future (for links to the organisations with which I am affiliated see www.johnsloboda.org). London is the

place to be for that work, and it also means I see more of my family. Mother, sisters, daughter, nieces and nephew are all here. Some even live in Ealing! The photo was taken at my retirement do. I am with Dame Janet Finch, OBE, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University.

St Benedict's Leavers 2007 Christmas get-together

As Year Marshals for the Class of 2007, Natalia Kaminski and I organised a get-together with the help of the Old Priorian Association at Christmas. The event was a great success with more than fifty people turning up and plenty of acquaintances being renewed. It was a pleasure meeting Lewis Hill (Secretary OPA), who was

representing the OPA, and of course the subsidy he brought ensured that everyone was suitably fed and watered.

The Wheatsheaf proved a wonderful venue, with the staff more than happy to ensure the night ran smoothly and allocating the back of the pub exclusively for our event. Platters of nibbles were

provided, which were washed down nicely by the soft drinks, wines and beers on offer. The feedback I got from people who came was very positive, with much encouragement for repeating a reunion next Christmas and I thank the OPA for making all this possible.

Marco Diliberto (OP 2007)

OPA Reunion – 1985-1987 Cohort

On Sunday 17 May 2009, a group of 26 enthusiastic souls gathered in the Abbot Lawrence Soper Pavilion at Perivale for drinks and lunch. It was a most enjoyable occasion, with members of the monastic community, staff (past and present), Old Priorians and OPA Council members able to reminisce about life at St Benedict's School and also to fill in the missing gaps about life

in general during the last 24 years or so.

The OPA was delighted that Abbot Martin Shipperlee, Dom Gregory, Chris Cleugh (Headmaster) and his wife, Tina were able to attend the occasion, alongside Basil and Clare Nickerson, Peter Chen, Peter Dixon, Andy Hardman, Paul Hopkin and Robin Nonhebel. There was plenty of laughter

in a relaxed atmosphere, and the food and drink was enjoyed by one and all. Quite a few Old Priorians from the vintage expressed disappointment that they were unable to attend, and it is anticipated that numbers for this cohort will grow at future events. A minimis incipit!

Rob Simmons (OP 1987 and Headmaster, Junior School)

Reunion Lunch

A number of OPs, from the late 50s vintage, gather for a very sociable lunch two or three times a year in central London. The next gathering is scheduled for October 2009.

If you would like more info or wish to attend please contact Ian Blackaller blackaller@iblackaller.freemove.co.uk

Once again Ian Blackaller did a great job in organising the lunch get-together for OPs of "late 50s" vintage on 21st April 2009. Sixteen enjoyed the company, good food and wine and it was a pleasure to welcome some new faces as well as those who have become regulars. For the record the following attended:

Michael Carrick (1955), Richard

Quinton (1955), Bernard Stutt (1955), Ian Blackaller (1956), Peter Delaloye (1956), Kevin Hannigan (1957), Anthony Phillips (1957), David Randell (1957), Michael Rapazzini (1957), Anthony Baker (1958), Tony Brunning (1958), Maurice Mulcahy (1958), Richard Baker (1959), Brian Clancey (1959), John Lindley (1959) and Brian Taylor (1960).

Subsequently Ian received the following from Richard Quinton; We reproduce it in full as it might encourage others to attend:

Dear Ian,

This is just a brief note, now that I'm back home safely, to say what a great event the 4th

Reunion proved to be, and how grateful I am for your kindness in extending an invitation for me to attend. It was a huge pleasure to meet up again with so many OPs whom I had not seen since December 1955. But, even more enjoyable, was the excellent venue, the superb food, and the very, very reasonable charge for such excellent cuisine. Needless to say, a very special word of thanks is due to you for negotiating such a good venue and an unbeatable price deal and, of course, for organising and co-ordinating the arrangements for us all. So, very many thanks to you, Ian; I really am most grateful to you, and certainly look forward to meeting up with you all on a future occasion.

All best wishes,

Richard

Chance Meetings

In the last newsletter we reported on a chance meeting of OPs in Strasbourg; this year our reported chance meeting was closer to home, but perhaps in a more unlikely place!

In late June 2009 Basil Nickerson (Staff 1956-1994) and his wife Clare (Admin Staff 1975-1983), together with Richard Baker (OP 1959 and Staff 1962-2000) were touring in the North of England; one day's excursion involved walking



part of Hadrian's Wall. They had paused to take a short breather when low and behold approaching out of the West appeared a lady. Clare was on the point of asking her "how far to the next mile post" The "screams" from each lady, "Clare ... Mary ..." said it all! Mary O'Keeffe (Staff 1978-1997) and her

husband Dennis (OP 1957) were "doing" part of the Pennine Way. What an excuse to extend the "breather" and catch up on news of families and other OPs. Talk about the "middle of nowhere" and "not another soul around" at that particular moment!

The photograph (l to r) shows Basil, Mary, Clare and Dennis. The insert shows Richard – someone had to take the picture!

Let us know of your "Chance Meetings" so that we can make this a regular feature.

OP Rugby – Season Review

The OPRFC had a fantastic first season under the guidance of Chairman Nick Farren (OP 1999), Coach Greg Knights and Captain Colin Stokes. A strong start to the season saw huge numbers of Old Priorians put their boots back on and the collective effort saw some emphatic victories over Grasshopper 2s (44-20), Bank of England 2s (104-0) and London Scottish Development (52-5). Both OP sides, the Saints and the Twisters, performed well, culminating in an important weekend just before Christmas. Three distinct OP sides gained victories over SODAM in the league, Saracens Amateurs in the Middlesex Bowl and an U23 win against a strong Rosslyn Park Hatters outfit.

It was important to kick on from Christmas with a number of huge fixtures. A fantastic defensive effort saw the OPs manage a 26-7 loss away at Sutton and Epsom 1st team of London 1. A fantastic night under floodlights for the Twisters proved the strength of the squad at our disposal and this was further proven with excellent away wins against Tring 2s (20-8) and Kew Occasionals (36-14). Meanwhile the Saints continued to rack up powerful victories in the league with Seb Oddi and Alex Wightman performing well in wins against Bank of England (75-7) and Feltham (69-0). The Saints went on to dominate the league, sweeping aside Old Actonians (52-7) and London Italian (69-6) in the League Semi Final and Final respectively. Michael George finished the season with an outstanding 20 tries. The club is also proud of the success of the U23 team, made up mainly of returning students during holidays. They are unbeaten so far, beating Rosslyn Park Hatters (19-10), Barnes 2s (40-27) and Richmond Barbarians (68-10). Among others, Matt Davis, Stefan Rowell and Rob Grant were both excellent in the latter victory and the club looks forward to their return from University. The next job for the younger years is the Cronks Cunis National U21 Tournament in September which we are



OPRFC Team 2009

hoping to win.

The Twisters played in some fantastic and bruising encounters as the season moved on. One of the performances of the season led to an outstanding 31-19 home victory against a huge London South Africa 1st team. The OPs came flying out of the blocks, shocking the opposition with early tries from Colin Stokes and Seb Oddi. A monumental defensive effort, as practised against Sutton and Epsom, kept LSA at bay but they continued to scrap their way back into the game until a break away try from Predee Anuvatnujotikul wrapped up the win. In the Middlesex Bowl the OPs managed to squeeze past West London 15-12 in the Quarter Final. An average performance on the night nearly saw West London complete a comeback and steal the game in the last minute but the OPs did just enough, defending on their own try line, to reach the final whistle and the Semi Final. The OPs would have to cope without two outstanding players, in Jack Dever and James Booth who headed off travelling. The Old Streetonians were the opposition in an incredibly open match at Fortress Perivale. Phil Harvey, Charlie Allum and James Stephenson gave the OPs a good lead. This was further helped by tries from Huw Jones and Seb Oddi to

complete a hard-fought 30-15 win and set up a Middlesex Bowl Final against Teddington at Wasps' Twyford Avenue ground. The OPs came out for kick off slightly too motivated and quickly conceded two penalties and a 6-0 deficit. A back and forth game meant that two penalties from Edd Conway and a powerful try by Predee Anuvatnujotikul saw the OPs draw level at 11-11 early in the second half. However sloppy defence allowed Teddington in to score again. The OPs dominated the remainder of the match, camped on the Teddington try line for the majority of the final 30 minutes. Huw Jones had a try controversially disallowed as well as coming close on another occasion following a kick through by Edd Conway. Despite superb performances by Wilkie, McCulloch, Stokes, Haston, Borthwick and Martin the OPs were unable to break through a well-drilled Teddington defence and were unfortunate to lose 16-11. We will be back next year!

In all, an awesome season driven by the hard work of Nick Farren. An unbeaten home record, a league win and cup final are a good starting point. It has also recently been announced that the OP Twisters will be placed in Herts and Middlesex 2 next season, a good result following a lot of hard work by the



OPRFC at Play

committee. We also look forward to the first annual Club Dinner on 26th June and the first OP Rugby Tour to Portugal in September 2009. The club would like to publicly thank both the OPA and the school for their continued and

invaluable support throughout the season.

If you would like to play for the OPRFC next season or have any queries regarding sponsorship, the dinner or tour

then visit the website at <http://www.oldpriorianrfc.co.uk> or email oldpriorianrfc@googlemail.com. Photos courtesy of Keith Brown (<http://www.dmkphotography.co.uk>)

Edd Conway ((OP 2005)

OPRFC Appeal July 2009

Dear Old Priorian

I am writing to you on behalf of the Old Priorian Rugby Club, formed by and for the old boys of St Benedict's School, Ealing and the local community. The OPRFC has a long history dating back to the 1960s and beyond when it regularly fielded a strong rugby side in a Sunday league. The club survived through the 1970s before experiencing somewhat of a stop-start existence during the 1980s and early 1990s. The re-formation of the OPRFC was announced in May 2008 with an immediate view to entering a team into a league and cup structure for the 2008-09 season.

An immensely successful first season has seen over one hundred OPs and members of the local community play for the Club in league, cup and friendly fixtures. Comprehensive domination in

the league structure and a run to the Middlesex Bowl final which saw many major scalps taken led Middlesex RFU to reconsider our position in the league structure and after some discussion our 1st XV has been allocated a space in Herts/Middx 2 for the 2009/10 season. Our 2nd XV will play in the the Thames Merit Table 2 and our U23 side relishes any opportunity they are given for a friendly. The bigger for them the better it seems. The Club will be having its first AGM and dinner this year, shortly followed by a tour to Portugal before pre season training and the new season starts. Going forward we are looking to expand our squad and membership base as well as start a Vets side and hopefully in the not too distant future a ladies side.

As we progress through the leagues and the club grows as a focal point for OP and local sport, the financial burdens we face also grow. We have a solid committee structure, a website that meets all the objectives of promoting the

club and keeping members up to date and the support of the Old Priorian Association. We have managed to secure some funding for the forthcoming season but there are still many exciting opportunities to get involved, support and even sponsor the club. With a growing fan base amongst past pupils and the local community, local media coverage and increasing exposure to numerous other rugby clubs we are able to offer unique opportunities to those who wish to get involved in successful grass roots sport.

The club aims to build upon the success and strength of St Benedict's, Ealing as a prominent rugby school and to make the most of the friendships formed at school and allow Old Priorians to continue to play rugby during a Gap Year, whilst at University and beyond. The OPRFC is here to provide a club in the local area for players seeking a fun, friendly, amateur and competitive rugby club.

Sponsorship Opportunities at OPRFC for 2009/10 Season

Dictator Scrum Machine £7232: A sponsored cover can be placed on the scrum machine to display advertising.

Catering Costs £5600: After training on a Thursday and match days.

Link Lighting Tower £3600: Mobile Lighting tower powered off the existing generators.

Physio Sponsorship £3500: 1st and 2nd Team Physio cover for match days and

physio supplies.

OP 7s Tournament £2000: Entering its eleventh year this is one of the most recognized 7s tournaments in the London area. Drawing large crowds every year, with prizes on offer the level of rugby as well as enjoyment is high. Sponsorship of this event entitles you to naming rights.

Squad Warm Up T- Shirts £1500: Warm up t-shirts for the 1st and 2nd Team with your company logo across the front.

Website Sponsorship £500: The club website constantly receives heavy traffic from club members, supporters and opposition players. Your logo will be available for viewing on the Sponsors page and as a rolling banner throughout the site.

Player Sponsorship £250: Support the club by sponsoring a player, this will allow you to have your company logo placed on his personal profile on the Club's website.

Tour Sponsorship £Negotiable: With the club growing at such a fast rate and with such a wide age range there will be the opportunity to sponsor the Club over a number of training camps and tours this coming season.

Yours Sincerely

Alex Pereira-Inacio (OP 2000)
Sponsorship and Marketing Manager
Mobile 07947648080
Email: oldpriorianrfc@googlemail.com
Web: www.oldpriorianrfc.co.uk

OPs win the U21 Cronk-Cunis Tournament



The Cronk-Cunis U21 Winning Team

On the 31st August the OPRFC U21 team won the Cronk-Cunis National U21 tournament for the first time in the history of the school. After beating Mill Hill in the first round the tournament became tough straight away. Adam McCulloch and John Bordiss scored the tries in a physical 12-0 win against Wellington College, a degree of revenge for the 2008 Daily Mail Cup Final. Brighton College were next up and the lads played typically impressive open rugby to win 36-0, the pick of the tries scored by Dan Porter after an exquisite

inside pass by Jack Dever. As the Semi-Final at 4.30pm approached the tough rugby and heat of the day meant the boys were tired going into a big match against Dulwich College. We were quickly losing 14-0 inside the first few minutes. Liam Dolan scored just before half-time to give us a lifeline. In the second half we managed to tie level at 14-14 and held out with an immense defensive effort on our own line to force extra time. Now working on sudden death the match was won following a blistering break by John Bordiss which led to a score in the corner

and a 19-14 win to take us into the final. The final saw the boys play incredible running rugby, much to the surprise and horror of the tired Millfield boys. Stephenson, Halsall, Simpson and Dever constantly tested the Millfield defence, opening it up almost at will with pace, power and excellent passing. The final finished 26-0 to the OPs, sealing a fantastic Cup win. Michael Simpson and John Bordiss were exceptional but the traditional Man of the Day vote went to Rowan Halsall.

Edd Conway (OP 2005)

OPA/Junior School Kwik Cricket Tournament

The OPA Family Day's Kwik Cricket Tournament took place at Perivale on Sunday afternoon on 28 June 2009. The final Sunday of the School term is traditionally set aside for the School's 1st XI to play the Old Priorian Association 1st XI for the Priorian Cricket trophy. The Family Day is an opportunity for families from throughout the School to spend an afternoon at the Playing Field whilst enjoying the delights of picnics and barbecued food.

The Kwik Cricket Tournament was offered to the U8, U9, U10 and U11 children, and 75 children participated in what was a very memorable afternoon.

The four teams in each tournament – Cheetahs, Leopards, Lions, and Tigers – enjoyed a splendid afternoon of cricket, overseen with great gusto by Mr Clark, Mr Guise, Mr Knights and Mrs Yates. The Cheetahs and Tigers were the eventual joint winners of the main U10/U11 final, but all of the players contributed much to the afternoon.

Thank you to all of the Parents who supported the players on the boundary during the course of the afternoon. Thank you also Mr Ainslie (Treasurer, OPA) and Mrs Moore (Administrator, OPA) for arranging for the trophies and supporting the venture, and to Mary

Keal (OP 1983) for organising the barbecued fare. Thanks must also be extended to Mr John White and Mr Paul Burni for preparing the wickets, even though Mother Nature had done her best during the previous evening to undermine their best efforts.

Finally, congratulations to Mr Clark, Mr Guise, Mr Knights, Mrs Yates and all of the players for making the tournament so much fun.

Rob Simmons (OP 1987 and Headmaster, Junior School)



Pictures from the OPA v 1st XI cricket match courtesy of Peter Watson (OP 1952)

Births, Marriages and Deaths January 2009 – August 2009

Births

1 Jan 09: To Oliver (1992) and Kate Bradley, their first child, a son Michael David Benedict

17 Feb 09: To James (1996) and Elizabeth Stacpoole, a son Harry James

Marriages

30 May 09: Edmund Paton Walsh (1981) to Renée Harris, in Harbord, New South Wales, Australia

29 Aug 09: Emma York (1998) to Paul Whitehouse (1998) at Ealing Abbey, married by Dom Thomas Stapleford OSB

Deaths, R.I.P.

10 Jan 09: Paul Kelly (1958), Aged 69

28 Apr 09: Justin Rees (1987), Aged 38

6 May 09: Cyril Walker (1957), Aged 70

5 Aug 09: Nadim Gulamhuseinwala (1993/95), Aged 32

Who has been in touch with us recently...?

Over the last few months the following OPs have been in contact with the Association, mainly via the "Where Are You Now?" and "Find a Classmate" sections of our website:

1947 Robert Carter – Devon

1954 Ian Smith – Notts

1956 Bernard Scholes – London

1956 Michael Ware – Vermont USA

1963 David Pountney – Devon

1964 Adrian Rapazzini – London

1966 John Green – South Yorkshire

1967 Pietro (Peter) Abate – Berks

1967 Peter Hearn – Bristol

1969 Bernard Peal – Northamptonshire

1976 Denis Burke – Hants

1978 James Donnelly – Connecticut USA

1978 Brian Lynch – West Yorkshire

1980 Mark Carney – Q.Roo, Mexico

1982 Nick Johnston – Melbourne, Australia

1983 Pietro Crescini – Milan, Italy

1984 Bernard Ross – Switzerland

1985 David Clyne – Middx

1987 Janusz Diemko – UK

1987 Damian Innes – Middx

1988 Sean Birrane – London

1989 Andy Oliver – Singapore

1991 Claire Cahill (née Young) – London

1999 Michael Heap – Qatar

2006 Anupam Das – Oxon

School News and Headmasters' Newsletters

A number of the published documents of the School (eg Newsletters, The Priorian etc) are now available on the School Website via an eBook system; unlike some of the ebook systems available, the one used does not involve downloading any software to your computer so many of you may find

this a much simpler method of viewing these documents

Latest School News:

<http://www.stbenedicts.org.uk/index.php?cat=3>

Newsletters:

The Headmasters' Latest Newsletters:

http://www.stbenedicts.org.uk/index.php?page_id=6

The Priorian

The latest Edition can be viewed at:
http://www.stbenedicts.org.uk/index.php?page_id=26

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!

Don't Forget:

Tell us where you are now by filling in a 'Where are you now?' form online at: www.theopa.org/wayn/index.html

Or find old friends by submitting a Find a Classmate form online at: www.theopa.org/find_a_classmate/index.html

Contact with other OPs

The OPA Office is happy to act as a "Forwarding Agency" for email contact – If you wish to contact an OP whose email address you do not have then email us and we will forward your email address to the person concerned

(provided we have an email address for them!) saying that you wish to contact them by email; he or she is then free to contact you if they wish.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT FORWARD EMAIL MESSAGES - WE WILL NOT ACT AS A THIRD PARTY EMAIL SOURCE!

WAYN – Where are you now?

It would help us to maintain our database records accurately and it would help the Careers Department of the School if you would take a few minutes to visit the Website and complete the WAYN Form which can be accessed from the Button Link on the Portal Page. This applies especially to those of you who have left School in the

last few years and are now on the first rungs of the ladder in that great big working-world or still in further education; having said that, don't let me put the rather "Older OPs" off supplying their information – the occupation "Retired" can be just as useful, providing of course we know what field it is that you have worked in!

All information supplied is treated with the confidentiality you would expect. Many thanks in anticipation of your help; the following link will take you straight there!

<http://www.theopa.org/wayn/index.html>

Interested in organising a reunion...?

Reunions are now more popular than ever and remain a great way to meet up with old friends and rekindle school

memories. There is useful advice online about how to make sure that your reunion is a success:

http://theopa.org/annual_events/reunions