



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF HABERDASHERS
THE OLD MONMOTHIAN CLUB
THE OLD BOYS' CLUB (FOUNDED 1886) OF MONMOUTH SCHOOL (FOUNDED 1614)

AGM 01/10/11
PRESIDENTS REPORT

In extending a very warm welcome to all of you present at today's meeting I feel conscious of my alarm clock ticking away to keep me on track with our busy schedule ahead. Our planned time-table activity has prompted this early start of the AGM, to be followed immediately by the Executive Committee meeting, a photo call at 10.40am and a meeting of the Monmothian Charitable Trust. The Club will be represented at the Memorial Service for the Reverend John Hencher, former School Chaplain, with members invited to the Blake Theatre following the Service. The Sports Pavilion will be open from 12.15pm for those attending the "10 Undefeated Rugby teams' lunch" at 1.15pm which, if things go according to plan, will enable members to support the School in their match against long-time rivals Bristol Grammar School.

This busy day sits happily at the end of another busy year. In submitting my annual report to you I am sure that you would have it no other way. The three objects of our Club are well defined and the OMC in reviewing the Club's Constitution and appointing an Action Group to implement, in consultation with the Headmaster and David Chowns the Bursar, the recommendations of the joint Sub-Committee have maintained a strong momentum throughout the year. The development of our OM website, first initiated by former OM Secretary Roger Atkins, has been carried forward as we seek to utilise opportunities afforded by new technology and information systems. In this respect I know that I speak for all members present who have access to our website in thanking you, Sharon, for the significant "hands-on" contribution that you have made in this dissemination of information to our wider membership and establishment of an ever increasing database. Indeed, whisper it gently but rumour has it that both Henry (Toulouse) and Ivor (Hodgson) are in danger of becoming computer boffins!

In parallel with the on-going work of the Action Group is that of the Monmothian Charitable Trust. Maintaining a careful audit of the Trust's finances throughout the year the Trustees took receipt last month of £4,600 in respect of Gift Aid. Remember that donations to Gift Aid enable the OMC to further assist pupils in a variety of meaningful and different ways and the Trustees are to be commended on their unstinting efforts to encourage increasing numbers to become Benefactors of the Trust.

In accord with the close consultative procedures that underpin OMC relationships with the School many of you will recall that the headmaster spoke to the Executive Committee in January of the formal proposals within the School Development Plan. The content of the



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Headmaster's Report and the source of financing of the "Heart Project" are well documented in the Minutes of that meeting. Suffice to re-iterate that the Committee agreed unanimously that the OM Database would be made available to the Development Office. In such ways the Club gives practical expression to its stated object to "further the interest of the School".

Turning to our Club commitment "to promote social and sporting activities amongst its members" I am pleased to report that we have enjoyed a very happy year. In October 2010 some 80 OM's, including many of our younger members set free from the challenges of city finance for an evening, enjoyed the splendid hospitality of Haberdashers' Hall. In December a marvellous dinner was held at Lincoln College, Oxford, in recognition of the achievements of two OM's: Paul Langford (57-64) Rector of Lincoln College and Richard Carwardine (58-65) President of Corpus Christie College. The abiding memory of all those in attendance was of the modesty and humility of these two ambassadors of learning.

Into January 2011. We began with our long established Cardiff Dinner at which we were delighted to present Rollo Arthur with an inscribed gift in thanks for his organisation of this event over some 40 years. Jamie Burn then weaved his magic together with the Second Master Simon Dorman and the School's ever helpful catering staff to stage another memorable OM Reunion Day in sunny June, with lunch again taken in the Sports Pavilion against the splendid backdrop of a cricket match played on the School's magnificent sports fields. Cricket enthusiasts may remember that George Lee, perhaps better known as the popular captain of the 2010 Undefeated rugby team, did in fact score 117 in this match against Christ College Brecon 2nd XI. Cricket gave way to rowing in late August when the Henley Dinner was held at the popular Leander Club venue and we were pleased to welcome James Baldwin and Rob Kyle, Captain and player in our Under 21 OM side which performed so creditably in reaching the semi-finals of the National U21's Old boys Bowl at the Richmond Club Festival held on the following Bank Holiday Monday. The curtain now comes down on our social calendar this 125th year with our celebration lunch to mark the achievement of the 10 undefeated rugby sides since 1936.

Mention of achievement causes us to pause and record our gratitude to other OM's who have performed incredible tasks in their determination to help others suffering from disabilities, illness or other hardships.



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The names of Grant Nicholas (79-86), Simon Butt (81-86), Andrew Bowen (83-90) and Richard Parks (88-95) spring readily to mind for displaying extraordinary dedication in this respect. Closer to home we thank those members of our Club who have given their time to ensure that our sports activities have continued to flourish. In cricket, rowing, golf, shooting, soccer and rugby we thank the organisers of these sports which, through the active participation of increasing numbers, have contributed so much to the enjoyment and success of the OM Club. Add to these formal activities the contribution of others who have combined to organise informal events in celebration of our 125th year and we begin to recognise just what a busy year it has been. I even find myself strumming words from a popular musical: - "this is the moment – this is the time, when the momentum and the moment are in rhyme".

What I can say is that this happy alliance of momentum and rhythm owes much to the commitment of my fellow officers of whom and about whom I cannot speak too highly. Their contributions and devotion to their work have been recorded in my Presidential message in the April 2011 Newsletter and my high regard for their work is re-iterated today. As we stand on the advent of the School's 400th anniversary and with the School's building programme well advanced I look back on the 125th year of our Club with a deep sense of gratitude for the support I have received and with a conviction that the OMC has continued to build on its strong foundations and is well equipped to face the future with confidence. We have in my successor Richard Booth and nominated Vice President Sir Frank Davies men devoted to the ideals and aspirations of the OMC and its William Jones Foundation. In handing over the Presidential reins and wishing them well I thank you for the honour and privilege of serving as your President for the last two years.

John Pearman

OMC President