NEWS OF OLD WILSONIANS

JULY 2018
HOT SUMMER EDITION



OLD WILSONIANS' ASSOCIATION
(FOUNDED 1904)

NEWS OF OLD WILSONIANS
JULY 2018

PRESIDENT	NEIL KENDRICK neil.kendrick3@btinternet.com
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	MIKE PIKE Phone 020 8659 6443 owmikepike@yahoo.co.uk
HON SECRETARY	ROGER MATTHEWS Phone Rogermatthews16@live.co.uk
HON TREASURER	CLIVE PECKOVER clive.peckover@hotmail.com
SPORTS CLUB SECRETARY	ANTON SNOWSHILL antonsnowshill@hotmail.com
GROUND MANAGER	STEVE MILLWARD Stephen_millward1@sky.com
BUILDINGS MANAGER	PAUL JENKINS Phone 07973 807070
BAR MANAGEMENT TEAM	GERRY ADAMS, JOHN DRABWELL, IAN PILGRIM Hayes Hill, Bromley, Kent Phone 020 8462 2600
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	PAUL JENKINS, MIKE MACE, MIKE PIKE
SPONSORSHIP AND FUNDRAISING	Vacant
SUPERDRAW & PRIZE DRAW CLUBS	GRAHAM WATTS Phone 0208698 1134 grawat@ntlworld.com Mobile: 07956 462 685
SCHOOL ADDRESS	Headmaster's Office Wilson's School, Mollison Drive, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9JW
OLD WILSONIAN'S LODGE	Secretary, GREG KIRBY Phone 07860 802935 www.oldwilsonianslodge.com
HON. EDITOR	MALCOLM TAYLOR Phone 07917 782974 taylormalcolmhj@gmail.com
OLD WILSONIAN'S WEBSITE	www.oldwilsonians.com

Old Wilsonians' Association
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Wilsonians' Association,

held on Tuesday, 12th December 2017 at the Clubhouse Hayes, 19:30

Attendees: Neil Kendrick, Bill Hartley, Clive Peckover, Mick Pilgrim, Clive Prince, Nigel Jordan, Mike Pike, Malcolm Taylor, John Drabwell, Stephen Millward, Ian Pilgrim, Ross Hartley, Paul Jenkins, Anton Snowsill, Bob West, Jan Jenkins, John Martin, Denise Pilgrim, Graham Watts, Neville Spencer, Jamie Parkinson, Jasper Gundry-White, Colin Smith, Alex Forbes, Richard Smart, C. Kingshott and Roger Matthews.

1. Apologies for absence

Jake Johnson, Doug Forbes, Mark Pope, Dan Harris, Lou Barry.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Tuesday, 13th December 2016)

In the absence of Doug Forbes, Clive Peckover chaired the meeting and firstly asked if it was agreed that the minutes of the 2016 AGM were an accurate record. This was proposed by John Drabwell, seconded by Colin Smith and signed by Clive Peckover.

3. Matters arising

Mike Pike commented that although the intention of splitting the role of President and making it a more honorary one with a hands on Sports Club Chairman/ vice-chairman had not been achieved, he still felt it was one that should be pursued. The demands which are made on the role of President these days, are such that they make the position very onerous, particularly if the incumbent is in full time employment.

4. Report of the President/Chairman of Council

Doug Forbes was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared the following report

A hard two years for me as President and I did try to avoid doing it but there were no candidates available to take on the role, so said I would do it but do not have the time to look after all the roles the job entails. It would be my recommendation that we split the role so we have an Association President and a Sports Club Chairman, who does not have to be an "Old Boy". This would allow Presidents to be recognised with an honorary role and not burdened, plus the Sports Club could then have a real focus as it continues to grow, I leave this thought with Neil as he takes over the Presidency.

There have been many Old Wilsonians that have passed in recent years, notably 'Mac' McAlister, Bryan Watts and, more recently, my father who will be sorely missed by all, but what a great send-off we gave him.

In terms of projects completed this year:

Website by Al Forbes

·Security system to protect the grounds

Clubforce run by Paul Jenkins and Ian Forbes to name but two driving forces in a team of helpers

· Review of the S&N contract with the bar working better than ever

Future direction:

Football academy during the week to bring in additional funds from what is “dead time” at the club

New Men’s toilets

·Possible pre-school hosted at the club

·Water irrigation system

·Possible outsourcing of the Groundsman’s role to achieve the most cost effective service for the OW Association

Possible funding of the tennis courts to have a roof put on them

·Expansion of the Colts section of all clubs to get more family support of the local community and old boys alike

·Brittain funds are being frugally used at present but there are many projects that will require focus, which should be looked at to make more money for the club

Possibly CASC review, but a look at the legal entity the club needs to be for the legal and safety perspective

On behalf of the Association I would like to thank the team of people that really keep this club going:

All the respective individuals who run the subsidiary clubs, which are all managed so well by both senior and junior committees

Special thanks for the work Neil has done to bring the youth football to where it now is

·Nigel Jordan for his drive completing the legal minefield that is the mobile mast contracts and his advice through the years

·Graham Watts for running the draws throughout the years, his help with Clubforce and scoring for the cricket club

·Anton for looking after the bookings, which is going in a very healthy direction due to his management

·Malcolm Taylor for NOW

Steve Millward for all the work he does for the Association with the grounds and the strong relationship with the schools

·Mickey Pilgrim, Bill Hartley and the Gardening club members for their efforts in keeping this place looking good

·Roger Matthews for his consistency as Honorary Secretary of the OWA

· Ian Pilgrim, Jon Drabwell, Gerry Adams and the bar staff for their excellent management

In particular Archie Whitaker who has stood out for so many as an individual who goes above and beyond his role

·Mike Pike for his newsletters through the years, his many years of scoring and his help with the review of the groundsman's role

·Paul Jenkins for his many hats and tireless dedication to the Association, great work as President of the Cricket club a true club man

·Finally, Clive Peckover for his role as Sir Humphrey. He will be standing down as Treasurer next year and his role is one that is so key to a balanced and well run Association I hope we can find the right replacement.

Thank you all for your support over the last two years, which is greatly appreciated.

5. Ground Maintenance Arrangements

Clive Peckover outlined to the meeting some of the options the Council had been considering regarding the future maintenance of the Association's ground facilities. In particular, whether, in light of the significant financial pressure we continued to face on operating costs, a change should be made from employing a groundsman to fully contracting out the maintenance of the ground, as was already done for Hawes Down as well as for a significant volume of more specialist ground work at Hayes. Not having to be responsible for the ever rising cost of purchasing and maintaining machinery, and access to the bulk purchasing power of a contractor in respect of supplies, could make this an attractive option.

If this were pursued in light of the business case being prepared for consideration by the Council, the contracting out process could be dovetailed with the departure of the current groundsman, who was within sight of his state pension age, on a timing and financial terms to be discussed with him. A refurbishment of the bungalow could enable it to be let commercially or used as part of the remuneration of a new employee responsible for a wide range of duties to be performed around the Club.

CP then went on to say that, if the Council approved the business case for fully contracting out the ground maintenance arrangements, what he was seeking from the meeting was their agreement in principle to three proposals:

1) That part of the legacy left to the Association by Janet and John Brittain should be used to reach a financial settlement with the groundsman in respect of his departure from that role. The terms of the settlement to be determined by the Council under professional guidance.

2) That a further part of the legacy be used to refurbish the bungalow when it became vacant.

3) That the Council should complete its ongoing work on the preparation of a specification for the ground maintenance, to be put out to tender and at least three quotations sought and

considered and a procurement decision made accordingly. The Council should also consider and determine the best future use of the bungalow.

The following points were made and noted:-

NJ agreed that the Council needed to consider and approve a business case regarding the financial implications.

IP would prefer someone on site with regard to security and standards.

NK noted that the groundsman has known for 6 months or so that new arrangements were under consideration.

A motion covering the three proposals above was then proposed by Colin Smith, seconded by Richard Smart and approved by the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Clive Peckover's Report

Clive Peckover invited the AGM formally to adopt the audited accounts for 2015-16, on which he had reported in outline at the 2016 AGM.

Proposed: Paul Jenkins; Seconded: Jamie Parkinson; carried unanimously.

Turning to 2016-17, Clive began by thanking Lou Barry and Mark Mace for all their hard work as part of the Treasurer's team, and also Ian Pilgrim for all he did to help ensure monies were properly banked and accounted for. All of this help remained crucial to the good financial running of the club.

Clive thanked the subsidiary club treasurers for all their hard work over the year. All the subsidiary clubs were in a sound financial state, with rents to the OWA for the year to end-September 2017 paid or accounted for, and accounts prepared or in preparation: these and Clive's central report would be submitted to Lou Barry for review and the preparation of the audited accounts for the year.

Clive also thanked other OWA members who had done so much through the year to boost OWA revenues. This included the outstanding work of all the Bar Team and of Anton Snowsill as sports club secretary on the pavilion hirings; Mick Pilgrim in his management of the Sunday hirers, with income of £6,145 for the year; Graham Watts for his tireless work on the Club Draws, which had generated over £5k in income for the year; Bill Hartley in managing utility expenditure; Nigel Jordan for his painstaking and patient work to review and renew the contracts for the masts and to chase outstanding income; and Neil Kendrick in expanding our revenue base through the development of the Junior Football, which now contributed an annual rent of £8k. All this work was crucial to our financial well-being and should be widely appreciated by the membership.

Clive presented a summary of the OWA central operations for 2016-17. This showed an operating deficit of £2,283 for the year for the central account, reflecting the cashflow to the end of September 2017. But overall the club was solvent, revenues were good and expenditure was properly controlled.

The bar had had another good year, with sales of £125k, the gross profit margin improved and net profit of £37k. Clive thanked all concerned for their efforts behind the bar and in front of it, which must be maintained. In early 2018 the separate bar account would be combined with the main central account, which should make cash flow management a bit easier.

On rents for the coming year, it was proposed that these remain at the current level, which generated £51k, plus £10,250 in sinking fund payments. The position of OWFC in particular, which had broken even last year but had one less side and therefore reduced income this year, would be kept under review. OWFC also had some proposals concerning rent levels across the OWA which would be considered by the Council to inform the levels set for 2018-19.

In terms of expenditure, it had been a routine year for club and ground maintenance, apart from a substantial outlay on new tennis court fencing after storm damage, plus an investment (from the Brittain fund) in CCTV to improve club and ground security.

Looking ahead to expenditure for 2017-18, the central operating budget was already committed to the following items totalling £13,500: tractor repayment of £5k; website development (to complete reimbursement to OWFC which had kindly funded the work) of around £2k; repayment to the Brittain fund of £5,500 used this year to meet cash flow pressures; and £500 to both OWCC (for Hawes Down container) and OWLTC (for court-side works). Renovation of the men's toilets was also a priority.

Clive Peckover invited the AGM to note his report for 2016-17.

Proposed: Malcolm Taylor; Seconded: Jasper Gundry White; carried unanimously.

M Pilgrim mentioned that with regard to pitch hire, the Club had seen a number teams of long standing fold, and the decline in the number of football teams does seem to be an ongoing trend.

7. Bar Report

John Drabwell's Report

Another reasonably good year for the club with net profit of £37.3k, up from £33.2k last year. Turnover increased by some £3k to nearly £126k and a small increase in bar prices was implemented in June.

However, the profit level was greatly enhanced following negotiations with our beer supplier in May, whereby Shepherd Neame reduced our barrel costs by approximately 25% across the board and agreed to fix these prices (subject to government intervention) until July 2018. These negotiations followed a considerable reduction of our debt to the brewers and the subsequent writing off of the small outstanding balance. We learnt that the debt was proving to be a considerable burden to our overall barrel costs and this problem has now been eradicated. Discussions with and an attractive offer from Greene King were also instrumental in achieving this result.

Our newly appointed Account Manager Nick Robinson, seems very much on the ball and more than willing to accommodate our requirements as well as offering worthwhile benefits and promotional discounts in return for our loyalty. The bar team will meet regularly with him at least every 6 months and more often if deemed necessary.

During the past couple of months we have been introducing some changes to our ales and these seem to have been met with contentment and pleasure by our members and customers.

Bar team now meet every 3 months to update each other on current situation and discuss future requirements. Archie is now a fully fledged member of team and has settled in very well.

Hires continue to form a considerable part of our income and Anton does good job of managing and fixing hirers requirements. Because of this situation it's imperative that the club facilities are in good order and therefore the Gents toilet facilities are of the utmost priority. Money must be spent for a professional job to be undertaken.

Thanks to the team for all their hard work and trust we will continue to profit and benefit from our efforts. Special mention should also be made to our hard working team of bar staff who do a very good job of operating and maintaining a high level of duty and customer care.

8. Sports Club report

Anton Snowsill's Report

Having inherited managing Tracy Jenkins, our cleaner from Bill Hartley, earlier this year, I am happy to report everything is running smoothly. She has also been asked to increase her duties to include the squash courts, shared changing rooms and showers. This also has been successful. One of the main problems had been the toilet roll dispensers and the lack of ability to restrict wasteful misuse of toilet tissues. I facilitated new toilet roll dispensers and with the help of Paul Jenkins, these were successfully fitted into all the club's toilet areas.

At the beginning of the year, I started an OWA Google Calendar to allow members to input events and to avoid clashes. This has been mostly successful but I would ask if anyone needs access, I only need their email address and for the individual to have a googlemail account. I also opened a shared iPhone Calendar, and once again, this can be shared if required.

Clubhouse hirings have been steady throughout the year with no major mishaps. I have had many emails and texts from happy hirers extolling the virtues of Archie and his merry helpers!! They are assets we are fortunate to have.

I have used Hayes Life on Facebook for free advertising on an ad hoc basis and I think it is a great way of contacting over 2000 local residents about the Club and associated events.

A busy but successful year.

9. Clubhouse report

Paul Jenkins' Report

Maintenance has been ongoing throughout the year. In particular the issue of the power supply to the tennis courts has been resolved, with new cabling and a new board having been installed.

The next big project must be the men's toilets which are unacceptable in their present condition and could deter future hirers from using the Club.

Lastly, PJ requested that a close watch be kept to stop the practice of cleaning football boots in the sinks, which does occur from time to time.

10. Ground report

Steve Millward's Report

Compared to 2016, my second year as Ground Manager has been a little less stressful? Until recently, I have had no concerns over the capacity or otherwise of our groundsman, Colin McCausland, with few performance issues – save possibly that of some of the machinery he uses.

Last year I stated that, due to the expansion of the OWs Junior Football section to 20 teams, we had reached full capacity. Not so, as a further 3 teams have been added, with training also provided to 2 groups of U6s. The issues arising out of the extensive use of HD on Sunday mornings are being addressed, although some solutions have been found not to work 100% all of the time!

Main Ground

Football - There was the usual lack of volunteers, both to take down the goals at the end of the football season and to erect them again before the start of the new season.

The pitches held up well at the end of the 2016-2017 season, despite the number of matches played on them and due to good weather conditions through August, were in very good condition at the start of the 2017-18 season. As the OWFC now fields 1 team less on a Saturday and 1 of our Sunday hirers dropped out just before the current season started, there has been a reduction in the frequency of matches being played. As a result, the pitches are in relatively good condition, apart from the goal areas. I have also not found it necessary to have them verti-drained, although may order such work to be carried out later in the season.

The goal nets nearest to the clubhouse are in a poor condition and a set of new nets will be required for next season.

With the passing of Ian Forbes, most of the car parking duty on a Saturday afternoon has now fallen on the shoulders of Ian Pilgrim. I repeat my call for other volunteers to step forward to share this burden. Ultimately, the Seniors may be required to follow the example of the Juniors and employ someone!

And, again my thanks to Mick Pilgrim for continuing to organise all senior fixtures on Sundays.

Note that the main ground will be available for football up to 15th April 2018. Renovations will then take place over the next 19 days prior to commencement of cricket.

Cricket – Considerable pre-season rolling of the whole square was again carried during March and April – perhaps more than the previous year. With regular assistance throughout the season from Michael Mitchell and David Ellicott-White, we were again able to provide pitches that were more than acceptable most weekends. There were some complaints about the length of the grass on the outfield and I accept that this could have been cut slightly shorter, especially during the latter part of the season, after some of the problems with the large mower had been sorted. I will seek to address this problem next year. I note that the overall marking of our

facilities by league appointed umpires was 78% (81% in 2016), ranking the club 3rd (5th in 2016) out of the ten teams in the division.

In addition to the main square the extra area on the opposite side of the artificial pitch was also scarified, seeded and top dressed at the end of the season. Hopefully the 2 practice strips will be more usable next season. The nets, covers, sight screens, repeater board and boundary rope may all require some attention next year to ensure they are in good working order before cricket resumes.

Tennis – Early in the year, Storm Doris brought down part of the hard court fencing and new fencing had to be installed. There may be a safety issue with the corner of the concrete base closest to the football pitch – this will need to be addressed. The artificial courts are being regularly brushed/swept and the frequency of leaf/debris removal from both hard and artificial courts has just peaked. Strimming of overgrown areas between the courts and Ex-Blues was again carried out in the summer. Colin has also carried out some trimming/pruning of trees on our ground around the tennis courts near Ex-Blues and on Wickham Park's ground next to our fence. All surrounds to the courts have been regularly treated with weed killer.

General – All machinery requiring annual maintenance was checked and serviced at the beginning of March. Fortunately, the mechanic did not have to make any return visits to adjust the heavy roller's clutch, although it will not last for ever. I still believe we should be looking to replace the roller in the very near future.

However, there were problems with the large mower. The mechanic had to replace some of the rollers as the bearings had gone. Also, for the second year running, one of the small front tyres suffered a puncture and had to be repaired.

Some of you will be aware that we had numerous incidents at the ground during the first few months of this year, with regular incursions by groups of youths, over or around our fence and through the main gates, which were forced open resulting in them being unable to operate properly. The new tennis pavilion was broken into along with the storage shed next to the clubhouse. We now have CCTV installed at the clubhouse and a magnetic lock on the front gates. A new motion detector and light have also been placed on the side of the tennis pavilion. The frequency of incursions has dramatically reduced and I am not aware of anyone trying to force the main gates now that they have a magnetic lock. However, I believe a motion detector and light covering the gates should be installed for added security.

Hawes Down

Football – Although all pitches were being used extensively at the end of the 2016-2017 season, most of the ground was not too worn and held up well. Overall, conditions were helped by all OW Juniors training being carried out elsewhere and the grounds being verti-drained twice during the season. In the summer, with a fortuitous gap in the cricket fixtures, I took the opportunity to repair several worn and compacted areas, adding top soil, re-seeding and deploying the single sprinkler to each area in turn. Whilst these areas have greatly improved, I will once again be looking to vert-drain to ensure good drainage and as little compaction as possible.

21 junior sides are now playing regularly at HD this season, in addition to the mid-week school matches and training sessions, and everything must be done to ensure the ground is not over used. So far, so good!

Please note that HD will be available for senior football up to and including Saturday 28th April 2017, with junior football guaranteed only to Sunday 29th April.

Cricket – Whilst rolling of the HD square was carried out in March and April, more could have been done had less resource been required at the main ground. Unfortunately because the square dried out very quickly during this period, the pitches for the first part of the 2017 season were not as good as expected. The cricket square was fully utilised during the summer by the 3rd XI and 4th XI teams on Saturday and U18s on Fridays. Hopefully, with more volunteers to help pre-season rolling, pitches provided in 2018 will be much better. The roller will require servicing beforehand.

General – Since the start of the 2017-2018 season, on Sunday mornings, the OW's Junior FC has been employing a car parking monitor from 9.30am to 11.30am and the number of parking issues has dramatically reduced.

The brambles to the side and top corner of HD are now being sprayed twice a year with weed killer.

With the permission of the schools, a half size container was purchased by the OWCC and located to the left hand side of HD. The OWA and OWs Junior FC also contributed to the cost. The small roller, line markers, small grass mower and various tools, along with cricket covers, hoses, sprinkler, portable scoreboard, stumps, bails, table and chairs, football goal nets, corner flags, respect barriers and ladder are all now stored in this container. Nothing has been left in the open next to or near the infant school buildings. Only the sprinkler and hose pipe will need to be kept on the ground near these building during the summer. We now have safe and secure storage for nearly all machinery and for all equipment that was previously transported back and forth from the main ground.

The maintenance contract for HD comes up for renewal on 1st March next year. We currently pay £12,300 + additional costs for whatever repair/renovation/re-seeding is required to the football pitches. Ian Muir does an excellent job for the OWA and, provided he is able to continue, I will be inviting him to renew the contract with us, subject to approval by the OWA and schools. Currently the schools contribute 60% towards the annual maintenance costs. I will be meeting the Heads on Friday 5th January and will seek their approval of the new terms as well as going through any other issues that are included for discussion. Note that costs to outside contractors for verti-draining are paid 100% by the OWA. The additional costs for spraying the brambles will be added to the annual maintenance costs.

11. Confirmation of President for 2017/2018

Neil Kendrick as President Elect was introduced by Clive Peckover, who highlighted the great success that Neil had achieved establishing a Junior Football Club, which had seen significant successful growth within a short period of time. He then went on to say that Neil had demonstrated his sporting prowess, having played cricket at county level. Although modest regarding his achievements, he was very much his own man and someone who would embrace the role of President with enthusiasm and pride, following in his father's footsteps.

NK was proposed for OWA President by Bill Hartley and seconded by Mick Pilgrim.

NK made the following response:-

I would like to thank Clive for his comments, and in particular Doug and others for all the hard work that they have put in during his presidency. A great deal has been done over his time and some difficult decisions have been taken, and Doug has always lead these developments with patience, empathy and fairness.

I am very honoured to have been asked to take on the Presidency, I hope that, together, we are able to make all those that have gone before very proud.

Over the coming months I would like to generate some real traction to what Doug has started - providing the best possible facilities, both inside and outside the clubhouse for all our members and guests is of high priority. The Brittain legacy money must be used wisely to benefit future generations of the sports clubs and the Association.

My initial priority will be to examine our ground care requirements and make sure our members are getting good value for money. This will be alongside reviewing how we keep all areas of the club clean and tidy with the upgrading of the gents toilet facilities to something we can be proud of.

Finally, I am passionate about getting things done in an effective manner. I would like to have a real push to see if we can get things done a little quicker than they perhaps they have been done in the past.

As Doug laid out last year the role of President is now too big a role for someone who is working full time – I would like us to review how best to work round this.

12. Confirmation of club captain for 2017/18

Stephen Millward was confirmed as Club Captain for 2017/18 and thanked for his hard work around the club, where he has not only built a good working relationship with the groundsman Colin and contractor Ian Muir, but also regularly provided assistance to various visitors to the club. Stephen was part of the fabric of the club, his contributions were crucial to its successful operation and it was very fitting he should join the roll of honour as Club Captain.

Proposed by Jasper Gundry-White and seconded by Denise Pilgrim.

13. Election of Vice Presidents

Existing Vice Presidents:

Gerry Adams, Terry Adams, Ron Ashdown, Lou Barry, Bob Bevan, Fred Brindle, Mike Curling, Pete Davis, Mike George, Mike Harris, Mike Kendrick, Andy McClniton, Jim Matthews, Dave McCarthy, Dave Mew, Cliff Milledge, Clive Peckover, Mike Pike, Ian Pilgrim, Mick Pilgrim, Stan Quantrill, Ian Rayworth, Gerry Reaseley, Malcolm Taylor, Andy Udale, Dave Wakeford, Peter Wakeford, Les Wilks and Steve Wisson, Alex Forbes, Doug Forbes, Neil Kendrick, Stuart Paton, Mark Mace, Andy Smith and John Drabwell.

There were no additional elections for Vice President this year.

All existing Vice Presidents were re-elected on block, having been proposed by Bill Hartley and seconded by Mick Pilgrim.

14. Election of Officers for 2017/18

President: Neil Kendrick

President Elect: T.B.A

Hon Secretary: Roger Matthews

Hon Treasurer: Clive Peckover

Hon Solicitor: Vacant

Sports Club Secretary: Anton Snowsill

Membership Secretary: Mike Pike

Editor of NOW: Malcolm Taylor

Webmaster: Jim Lloyd, Alex Forbes

Bar Management Team: Gerry Adams, John Drabwell, Ian Pilgrim, Archie Whitaker

Ground Manager: Steve Millward

Buildings Manager: Paul Jenkins

School Liaison Officers: Andy Parkinson and Mark Simmons

Membership Committee: Paul Jenkins, Mark Mace and Mike Pike

Disciplinary Committee: Gerry Adams, Clive Peckover and Mick Pilgrim

Appeals Committee: President and two members of the Management Committee

All of the above were proposed and seconded on block by Bill Hartley and Mick Pilgrim respectively and unanimously elected.

16. Election of Honorary Old Wilsonians

Existing Honorary Old Wilsonians:

George Wing, Graham Watts, John Lucock, Doug Stanley, Ray Neve, Paul Jenkins, Denise Pilgrim, Stephen Millward, Clive Prince, Jasper Gundry-White, Nigel Jordan, Andy Steel, Nick Fuller, John Martin, Jill Forbes, Caroline Maxwell, Bob West and Judith Heayberd.

NK said how pleased he was to have received the nomination of two members of the Tennis Club and one of the Bar Management Committee who had been put forward as Honorary Old Wilsonians in recognition of their years of hard work and dedication to the OWA and its subsidiary clubs. They were:-

Jan Jenkins

Nigel Jordan introduced Jan saying:-

Jan joined OWLTC along with several other players when the neighbouring club The Lanes closed down in the late 1990s. Jan quickly became involved in supporting her new club, developing her own brand of Quiz Night to raise funds. Jan, assisted by her husband Alan, ran a Quiz Night twice each year for more than a decade, and more recently once a year. Their Quiz Nights were well-attended throughout the 19 years Jan and Alan ran these events – everyone looked forward to their unique brand of fun competition. Jan has raised more than £15,000 for tennis club funds, and at the same time generated bar profits for the wider club in excess of £10,000. A magnificent contribution to the social side of the club as well as to its finances.

Norman Holmes

Unfortunately, Norman was unable to attend the presentation, but Nigel Jordan wrote the following overview of Norman's contribution to the OWA, and he will be presented with his certificate at a later date:-

Without asking him, I think he joined around 2006, since when Norman has brought a steady stream of new blood into the club – many of today's familiar faces were first introduced by Norman. He has regularly encouraged loads of non-member friends to support the various social functions that we put on. He's been a staunch supporter of the tennis club, serving on the Committee since before I became Chairman in 2010. He's been Men's 2 team captain (in his own inimitable style). He has always been a willing pair of hands – whether cooking for OWLS, helping set out tables for Quiz Night or shinning up the scaffolding and changing floodlight bulbs.

He's an all-round good egg, and a loyal supporter of both the OWA and the OWLTC.

Archie Whitaker

Nigel Jordan said that Archie had worked for the Club since he was 17, having previously played a couple of seasons for the Old Wilsonians U13 Cricket Colts.

Archie has been and continues to be simply a great Barman.

He is totally reliable and his organizational flair at functions has seen him receive praise and acclaim from numerous hirers over the years.

Without his input, enthusiasm and ability to get on well with people, Old Wilsonians would not have grown in reputation to the extent it has in recent years.

Archie certainly deserves the accolade of being made an Honorary Old Wilsonian, as he undoubtedly goes the extra yard.

As well as helping out when he can around the ground. He has also filled in at the last minute for both football and cricket sides when called upon.

The AGM unanimously approved the nomination of Jan Jenkins, Norman Holmes and Archie Whitaker as Honorary Old Wilsonians.

17. Reports of subsidiary clubs

Senior Football

Jamie Parkinson's Report

A very poor season by our standards on the pitch with only the 4th XI bringing home silverware in the form of the OBC Minor Cup. This is testament to the hard work that Yuved Bheenick and Jon Knight have put in. They have a squad of players that is regularly available and this shows from their results. Again they fell short in the league. They have a habit of dropping points against the lower sides and this came back to haunt them again. They also were unlucky to lose in the LOBC Minor cup semi-final, coming up just short against Shene OG despite dominating the game. Our other cup final was the 2s who came so close in the AFA Intermediate cup final, having 2 goals chalked off before eventually losing to Nottsborough after extra time. Elsewhere the 9th XI again propped up the SAL but did so with great spirit and sportsmanship. The 7s threatened a title early on but fell away badly and the 1s can be pleased with their 4th place finish.

The season began with mixed results though it was clear that our first X1 coached by Chris Wells would be very competitive again. Unfortunately, Chris had to step aside in November for personal reasons but he still remains a major part of our recruitment process at the school. An early exit in the OBC against Old Etonians was disappointing. The same fate was to occur in the Surrey Premier Cup, 2-0 up against Banstead Athletic (who will play at step 5 next season) was not enough and on a freezing cold night we went out. The AFA cup was also disappointing. The 1s lost to Old Carthusians on penalties despite the side being the better side throughout and conceding a last minute goal to take the game to penalties. In the league the 1s did remarkably well despite an ageing side and the loss of Chris. Sam Wilson and the Dan Sellman took on the reigns and we did very well going unbeaten between mid-November and late March. At one stage we were just about in a title race but Polytechnic were the standout side and retained their title. A poor end to the season was unfortunate but with an influx of youth the side should be well placed. Jalen Gravesande was player of the year and also made his debut for the SAL and AFA rep sides. It was also great to see former 1s player gain a professional contract the USA Philadelphia Union. He scored the winner at Nottsborough just before Christmas and weeks later he was making his debut in the MLS. He has since done very playing against the likes of David Villa. Niall McManus another player to turn out for the 1s was part of the Leatherhead side that lost to Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup a couple of weeks back.

The school games were played at Hayes in September which led to Old Boys victories. A few of these boys appeared in the sides as the season progressed but this is something that we must work on in the coming months.

The 2s just managed to stay up. It was a difficult first season for Stu Dunk who now passes on the reins. He lost a large number of players, for a number of reasons, and this meant that staying up and an AFA Cup final was actually a decent season. He did well to introduce some good schoolboys to the club and this should stand them in good stead going forwards.

The 3s had a good first year under Ricky Martin without gaining the results that they deserved. They lost in the first round of all the cups which meant they got to play in the Spring Cup. A final was reached but late goals gave the game to Old Parmiterians. The 3s are a work in progress but I am confident Ricky is the right man to take them forward.

The 4s as usual sniffed around promotion but as usual dropped some really silly points. Jon Knight had a good year as skipper ably assisted by Yuved Bheenick. The OBC cup win was a club highlight as mentioned above. The 4s will be looking for a new skipper this year and hopefully someone can step up to the plate.

The 5s were the definition of mid table mediocrity but this was ok considering they didn't have a skipper. Everyone chipped in but thanks must go to Chris Dyki who did the majority of the work.

Chris Charman had a much improved season as 6s skipper. Improved availability lead to improved results but not an improvement in league position! They had an excellent AFA cup run, beating a number of higher ranked sides.

The 7s set off like a train but fell away badly after dropping some silly points at Polytechnic. Nick Mole now steps aside. He has been an excellent captain over the years and deservedly picked up the clubman of the year trophy for this. He is a keen recruiter and a number of the players that can be seen at the club came from him.

So to the bottom League of the SAL where the 8s were up and down all season as availability was difficult. The 9s propped up the League pyramid again without gaining a point. Thanks must go to Kek Amankwah and Rod Trompiz for their hard work at the bottom end of the club

Off the pitch Barnes Clanachan ran a very successful OW Golf Day, won by Ben Cook. The dinner also raised significant funds with large but slightly depleted numbers sitting down at Hayes post season to celebrate the year and consume copious amounts of Curry from own sponsors The Blue Bengal, Carshalton and the OWA definitely benefited from bar takings! Nick Mole won the clubman of the year trophy and Doug Smart the Clarke Quarrington. Jalen Gravesande was the 1s player of the year. Sam James picked up the golden boot and Jon Chen was the young player of the year. We also had the huge honour of hosting the OBC 6XI Cup Final and the AFA Surrey/Kent Intermediate Final.

Again we were at the top end of the table for discipline and hospitality and Mick Pilgrim was recognised by the FA by receiving a 50 years voluntary service award which was awarded at the VP Day. This is an amazing achievement and so well deserved for a man who has put his life and sole into our club.

On top of this thanks must go to Yuved Bheenick for setting up a sponsorship deal that so far has yielded new kits for the 3s and 6s.

I would like to go on record in thanking the skippers and the committee for their continued hard work and support. Many people do not realise how much voluntary time go into running club of this size. To this note a special vote of thanks go to those who are stepping down, for their services over a varying number of years. Stu Paton who has been one of the major contributors is stepping aside from Ways and Means. This committee organised 3 new events last year the live band night, FIFA night (thanks to Graham Nelson for the kit) and the darts night. The attendance wasn't as expected but the committee feels this is something that we can push going forward. Dave Pilgrim steps aside as kit manager so thanks for all the work he has done locating match balls and missing kits. Yuved Bheenick steps aside as Selection Secretary (a thankless task) and will now help Mike Harris with the stats. Neil Kendrick's tenure as Club Captain is up. We thank him for always being at the club supporting and his useful contributions to everything that we do.

The biggest loss though is Mike Pike. Mike will pass over to James Eglon but is difficult to put into words his impact. I will write a bigger piece for the website at some point but after 1,500 newsletters over the past 47 years I just want to say a massive thanks to Mike.

Another stalwart stepping aside is Mike Harris who has done an amazing job collecting the stats over a large number of years. It is really unfortunate that the tardiness of the membership in providing these has led to him stepping down but like Mike Pike I want to give him huge thanks for all the work he has put in on this as well as everything else that he does for us.

This season so far has been tarnished by the sad and sudden death of one of the clubs most significant figures, Ian Forbes. He did so much for us behind the scenes, raising huge amounts of money and being a huge part in the hospitality awards that we have won over the years. He will never been replaced and the FC are consulting about suitable ways to mark his legacy.

This season it was decided to drop a side. Effectively the 4th XI were removed as a lot of players left the club and there was no captain forthcoming to run things. We had also struggled for numbers so we were looking at dropping a side anyway. This has eased selection issues somewhat and results seem to be better although only the 5s look like they may challenge for silverware although the 1s are still in the AFA and Surrey Premier cup. We have been helped out by the new SAL ruling of cancelling games in the middle of the club and the lack of commitment from the 1st XI is a worrying thing. Jamie Parkinson has written to the membership detailing the issues and asking for more support and this has had a small effect so far.

The committee still works really hard and some of its newer members are making a real impact. The new newsletter produced by James Eglon is fantastic. Joe Kirby (fresh from uni) has been added to the committee to try and help on the recruitment side of things and Jon Howe is doing some great work on the ways and means side of the club and through new initiatives has already raised a good amount of money. The eliminator was very successful as was the Christmas Party.

On behalf of the FC I would like to thanks those members of the OWA who do so much to assist us. Stephen Millward as grounds manager and Ian Pilgrim are two that spring to mind.

Going forward I think the club is at a bit of crossroads (as the majority of adult football is). Having been involved in selection this year I have seen first-hand how difficult it is to get people to commit to playing regularly. Players are happy to play every other week or even less sometimes. Getting money out of players is getting harder and in general getting them to stay for a drink, attend club events or training is getting harder and harder. The club committee have a lot of work to do in this area as otherwise I fear we will be losing teams and having to rethink how we take the club forward. We have to do better with the link to the school and we have also started to try and recruit more from the OW youth football and the cricket club. This has worked well to an extent although a number of cricket members have stopped playing this year and we have not managed to recruit that well from the current OWFC Youth U17s.

Junior Football

Neil Kendrick's Report

The junior football club continues to go from strength to strength. We have added 4 teams at u7 level and now have 23 teams. We have over 40 volunteer parents running our teams every Sunday. We are progressing towards achieving charter standard from the FA having run our own safeguarding and a level 1 course.

We have a fantastic committee led by 3 co chairs who have different areas of responsibility - the co chairs are backed up by a fantastic secretary and membership secretary. For the last 3 Sundays we have run 3 Christmas parties all of which have been very well attended - we hope to run further social events in the new year.

Cricket

Mike Pike's Report

The 2017 season was a very successful one for the Old Wilsonians' Cricket Club but was over-shadowed by the death of Ian Forbes.

The last few years have not been kind to the OWCC as we have lost John and Janet Brittain, John Ford, Bryan Watts and Brian Morley, none of whom we will ever forget, and John and Janet's contribution to the Club was marked on President's Day by the unveiling of a memorial to them, whilst our President came up with an excellent suggestion that one end of the ground should now be known as the John end and the other the Janet end, although we have not decided which should be which yet.

All of the above would have been proud of our achievements over the past few years so I will now concentrate on the tremendous amount we have achieved this year, starting with the bare facts

The 1st XI, in only their second year in Division Two, finished third, and the 2nd XI fourth in the Kent League, whilst the 3rd XI finished 9th, the 4th XI 8th and the 5th XI 6th in the Kent Regional league, although it is probably diplomatic not to mention how many teams were in the latter three's respective divisions!

There was a threat to the very existence of the Feeder League but, and thankfully, this now seems to have been overcome.

The Sunday Development side won their division, suffering just one defeat, and will now play Sutton, the winners of the Surrey league, at the start of next season to establish bragging rights between the two counties.

The U19s T20 side reached the final of the Kent ECB competition, whilst the Sunday social side continue to enjoy their cricket and give opportunities to both young and old alike.

The Colts season, under the stewardship of Adrian Beckett and his excellent committee and fine team of coaches, again handled the season well and, for the record, the Under 13A finished third in their league, the Under 13B eighth, the Under 15 sixth, the Under 11 fourth, and the Under 17 seventh, whilst the move to Friday evening coaching seems to have worked well for all concerned.

Both the colts and senior club held end of season awards evenings and congratulations to all of the winners – a full list of which appears below – but particular mentions for the respective 'Club Person of the Year' , Barrie Frampton for the Colts and Paul Jenkins and Paul Maxwell, who shared the honour, for the Seniors.

Our AGM took place in October the major consequences of which being the election of Jasper Gundry-White as our President to replace Paul Jenkins and of Barrie Frampton as Colts' Chair, replacing Adrian Beckett.

We are now preparing for the 2018 season and the committee continues to meet on a monthly basis throughout the winter and indoor nets commence in January.

Tennis

Nigel Jordan's Report

This year has been a mixture of highs and lows. Since March 2017 we have basked in the glory of holding the accolade of Kent Tennis Club of the Year 2016; we also achieved the TennisMarkPlus standard – I think we were one of only 5 clubs in Kent to do so:-

MEMBERSHIP - we attracted some terrific new members, young and old; at the date of the AGM the total membership was almost identical to the year before – at 455 of which 135 were adults. In addition, we have other membership applications in process so that will take the current membership to around 470. We might just reach 500 by 31 March when we start over again. We are likely to lose between 90 and 100 members as part of the annual churn that we now experience.

GRANT-FUNDED ACTIVITY - we got some grants to put on new sessions for adult ladies as well as the under 8s as part of the Davis Cup legacy; we will get some further grant funding again in 2018 and there will be more new sessions for groups of non-members.

FACILITIES - Storm Doris breezed in causing damage to the hard court netting – so with OWA support we've replaced that; we completed the raised garden; we finally acknowledged what we've all known for a while – that we were over-drawing the electrical supply when we used 5 or more sets of floodlights. Thanks to Paul Jenkins we quickly split the floodlights onto 2 separate supplies, paid for from the Sinking Fund. Our plans to re-paint the hard courts stalled because of bad weather but that will happen in the spring; ClubForce was a great event for us with around 50 tasks completed. We plan to hold a weekend like that in April 2018 – I hope the OWA continues to do so, although I appreciate that is still uncertain.

TEAMS - there has been some on-court success, and some tough matches too. Our Men's 1 team won their division last winter so we have moved up. Our men's 2 team conceded a match last winter which meant they were docked points and relegated. In the summer we played the high level Aegon Team Tennis, coming 5th out of 6 – but we have agreed NOT to run that in 2018. Our NKL men's 1 and 2 teams held their positions in the league but again conceding a match played havoc with the Men's 2 result – which was otherwise very good. We also ran a Men's Midweek over 60 team and as well as a midweek mixed veterans – both struggled but we will try to be slightly better organised in advance and get more of the stronger players out in 2018.

FINANCES – The club continues to build its Sinking Fund at a rate necessary to ensure our ability to replace the court surfaces when they reach 10 years old. Currently hard courts are 9 years and carpet are 7. It looks like we may be able to stretch their use further. In 2017 the contribution to the Sinking Fund was £7500 (plus £500 for the MUGA) and that will rise by £500 every year to reach £9000 by 2020. We now include the resurfacing of the MUGA in our plans, and receive a contribution to the Sinking Fund of £250 a year from the netball club towards

that. We will pay for the re-painting of the hard courts– our plans have always included the cost of that. Last year we paid for the new tractor gates for the artificial courts from it too.

We have started to pay for secretarial help.

FUTURE PLANS – we are committed to looking at adding LED floodlights on the MUGA. And starting to explore the possibility of covering the 2 hard courts. There could be some LTA funding support for part of the cost. Early days.

We have agreed a calendar of events for 2018. I want to shake things up a bit in 2018, put on some new events in an effort to refresh our offering to adults. It is high time we had a bit more fun, and changed things around a little. So a mixture of old and new in 2018.

OVERALL - I've been the Chairman for 7 years. How time flies!! I remain acutely aware of how much we rely on Jake & RAW Tennis, and what a leap of faith he took when he moved here full-time from Sundridge Park. I've always believed that one of my greatest obligations is to look after him – and I hope I deliver on that. Jake does a brilliant job with players young and old. Jake and his coaching team continue to set the standard amongst local clubs by showing how to create a fun, enjoyable coaching programme. As a team they help children develop a love for the sport of tennis that will hopefully last them a lifetime. What a terrific thing to have done! And the partnership between Jake and the club is as strong as ever. Long may it continue. Thank you Jake, for everything.

As ever, I should like to thank the OWA for their continued support and encouragement . And acknowledge the small army of club members and Colts parents who volunteer to help us all run this club.

Squash and Racketball

Ross Hartley's Report

OWSRC’s membership fluctuates around 65-70 members with a handful of new members joining and a few leaving every year. Our membership fee is the cheapest in the area at £45 per year. We levied a £10 increase this year to cover the anticipated cost of an annual court refurbishment programme following the courts’ overhaul in April 2017.

Generally our members play socially once or twice a week; however we have a team playing competitively in the Kent Priory League - both during the winter and summer.

At our upcoming February meeting we will be welcoming some younger members onto the committee : one as a ‘normal’ (non-position) member; the other is starting to shadow our Treasurer who is standing down in October. Our financial position is healthy and we continue to tick along with our six-monthly ‘Open’ and ‘Handicap’ tournaments to be played this coming year.

Netball

A report was not made.

18. Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10:50pm.

Past President's Lunch 16th February 2018

In the wake of the behaviour at 'The Presidents Club' recently, it may have seemed risky to hold the annual Presidents' lunch – of former Presidents of the Association – but I can assure you that this was a far more dignified affair, although ***Mike Harris*** was instructed to "go and change" when he arrived in a short black dress, and I cannot vouch for what happened at 'The Railway' after I departed shortly after six o'clock when there were still eight Presidents chewing the cud and drinking sparkling water!

The lunch itself took place at Prima Donnas, whose Maitre D looks disturbingly like Mark Mace who, in turn, looks disturbingly like Manfred Mann. The original venue had been 'The New Inn' which, for a number of reasons – and the stories abound and vary – had informed us that they could no longer host the event, and thanks to ***Mick Pilgrim*** for finding this alternative at very short notice. We were due to meet in the aforesaid 'Railway' from 12 noon onwards before making the short journey across the road for lunch at about 1-00 p.m., so I boarded the 11-56 from Lower Sydenham, which would reach West Wickham station about 15 minutes later, only to discover ***Alex Forbes*** in the same carriage. (Last year it was ***Pete Davis*** – I seem to be going through Past Presidents in alphabetical order so look forward to seeing ***Doug (Forbes)*** 12 months hence.)

Malcolm Taylor and Gerry Adams - the Odd couple - Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau have nothing on them, were yards in front of us, whilst other Past Presidents were already in situ, and eventually became 13 when ***Steve Wisson*** became the last to arrive and, later, the first to leave, as he made his way to a support group for those who suffer from premature ejaculation – he always likes to get there early.

Bob Bevan was in ***Las Vegas*** – when Dickens' Martin Chuzzlewit visits America he encounters a Mr Bevan – and ***Lou Barry*** was in Costa Rica whilst, and sadly, ***Mike Kendrick*** and ***Les Wilks*** were not fit enough to attend, but we raised a glass to 'absent friends' and the four Presidents who have died, ***Richard 'Mac' McAlister, Bryan Watts, Ted Knevett and Ian Forbes***, since our inaugural gathering.

Les is one of my heroes and should be one of yours. Such an integral part of the Association when it moved to Hayes in 1959, - amongst other things he had to placate the locals who seemed to take exception to the fact that the likes of cricket and football were being played at the Club - his Gala Day and Donkey Derbies attracted up to 10,000 visitors. A prolific football and tennis player – he is the current President of the Tennis Club and only stopped playing regularly a couple of years ago – he continues to be an integral member of the gardening club, whilst even his car shows his commitment to the Association, having the number plate OWA 57; was that the year you were born, Les(?) As for Mike, he was also there from the start when we acquired the ground, ran the bar virtually on his own and played both cricket and football for us for many years – no-one has scored more runs for the OWCC than Mike's 22,462.

He also sagely proclaimed "Playing is easy and a club can only be successful as a consequence of the work put in by its members before and after the games are played", and nobody epitomised this truism more than Mike and our success is in no small part due to his enormous contributions over the years.

Current President ***Neil Kendrick*** hosted the event and during the course of the lunch presented Doug Forbes with his Past Presidents' medal and explained what he wanted to

achieve during his two year Presidency which, in effect, was “more of the same” as he felt that all sections of the Club were in a very healthy condition, praising the tennis club in particular which now has close on 500 members, “although that does mean that my Mum no longer win the ladies singles title every year.”

Clive Peckover, recent recipient of an OBE, explained that he received his gong from Prince Charles, who was “quite charming”, informed our current treasurer, but he did say that, although he really enjoyed Clive’s performances in ‘Blackadder’ he was not so keen on his ‘Mr Bean’, before bursting into song ‘‘I talk to the trees, so they put me away” At the end of the meal Clive declared that it was on him, which was a magnificent gesture – thanks Clive – and, he felt, “a viable alternative to making a donation to Oxfam.”

Although Les was not able to attend - he was suffering from a stomach upset but egg on toast had settled it down and he had hoped to be able to pop in for a drink but had, wisely, decided not to so. But he had still been working hard on our behalf – no change there, then – this time on acquiring a tree to commemorate the life of ***Ian Forbes***, and had given me an update on its progress earlier in the day. The plan had been to plant it on the ‘***Richard McAlister memorial day’*** the following week and, in order to do so, a decision had to be made quite quickly for this to be possible, so a discussion was held with Alex and Doug to ascertain where it should be planted at Hayes. You will not be surprised to learn that a sensible idea was not forthcoming, so I will have to talk to Jill, Helen and Stuart to discover one that is; well, to Jill and Helen, anyway!

Ian Pilgrim seemed to regret his decision to have a full English breakfast in the morning and was not able to finish his beef bourguignon, whilst ***Bill Hartley*** skipped dessert before tucking into the cheese and biscuits. We returned to ’The Railway’ shortly after five o’clock where much time was spent determining how many games of football, and how many goals, we had all scored, for the OWFC and remembering that John Clarke is the only OW who has scored a hat-trick of own goals.

Gerry Adams, who was a goal-keeper, did not find the back of the net that regularly although he did play a big part in a hat-trick when the Vets played Old Bromleians in the ‘Freddie Hoar Memorial Cup” – isn’t it about time this event was revived? The Bromleians side contained a certain Mick O’Connor, a tricky winger, who scored three goals in this particular encounter in a 5-2 win for the visitors, including one which came after Gerry had thrown the ball to him, which he quickly dispatched into the back of the net. In the dressing room after the game someone inquired:‘‘Gerry; why did you throw the ball to O’Connor”‘‘Well,” explained the custodian, “he called for it” My thanks to Doug Forbes for sending me the above photograph which, somehow, I have managed to cut and paste to illustrate this article – have no idea how I did so and, if I tried to do so again, would undoubtedly fail. Mike Pike



GOLF DAY

The annual Old Wilsonian Golf Society's Bert Bourner Jug this year took place at Banstead Golf Club on 3rd May . As always it was well attended with 50 old boys and guests competing . The mandatory bacon roll was devoured before the 4 balls went out. The weather was good to us & an enjoyable day was had by all,with Malcolm Smart taking the honours scoring 43 Stapleford points . After we sat down for a 3 course meal and prize giving .Well done to Barnes Clanachan & his team for another well run event. Alex Forbes

FOOTBALL CLUB

The season started with the decision to run with 8 sides and not 9. Our all-conquering 4XI were broken up and there was no one available to take on the team so we went down to 8XI's. This decision was also taken to help with selection which it did to an extent.

A very poor season by our standards on the pitch with no trophies won. The 5s did earn a well-deserved promotion. This is testament to the to the hard work that Jamie Moniz has done in his first year as captain, introducing a large number of players back to the club. Unfortunately, the lack of success is due to continued poor availability and a lack of engagement with training. The sessions pretty much didn't run from Christmas due to a lack of participation or a regular person to run it.

On the plus side the club did win the Ian Hamilton Trophy again. This is given to the side with the best hospitality over the season. Huge thanks go to the likes of Steve Millward, Ian Pilgrim, Mick Pilgrim, Jasper Gundry- White and Mike Harris who do so much in this area.

The 1XI, under the guidance of Dan Sellman, had a solid season finishing 5th with a young side. They also reached the semi-finals of the AFA cup narrowly missing out to eventual winner Actonians. The also lost to the eventual winners of the Surrey Premier Cup in the quarter final. Dan did well in his first year but disappointingly the 1s had very poor availability for the flagship team. Without the help of the 2s they would have struggled to get teams out some weeks. There are lots of promising youngsters in this side and if they can sort of availability and training there are high hopes for this bunch. Ed Healey was POTY and won the golden gloves.
The 2s had a much better season and early on it looked like they would challenge. Unfortunately, they fell away. All three cups were exited with weakened teams.

The 3s started well but in the end narrowly missed the drop. Ricky Martin steps down and we thank him for his efforts.

The 4s did well with new skipper Pat Matthews putting together a merry bunch (many promoted from lower sides). They finished mid table and had some excellent cup results. Again, Pat steps aside so thanks for his work taking over when no one else would step up.

The 5s were promoted as previously mentioned.

The 6s in the same league as the 5s did well to finish mid table but again they are looking for new skippers after James Eglon and Ed Adams step down.

It looked like the 7s were having a tough time of things but they finished 3rd, with some excellent results along the way. Kek Amankwah steps down after a number of seasons of hard work at the lower end of the club. Many thanks to him.

So, to the bottom of the SAL where the 8s nearly did the impossible and didn't finish bottom. They had some great results over the year but unfortunately a late loss to HSBC meant they propped up the rest.

The vets won a prestigious fixture against Sutton United and also reached the semi finals of the London Old Boys Cup.

Off the pitch Barnes Clanachan ran a very successful OW Golf Day. The dinner also raised significant funds with large but slightly depleted numbers sitting down at Hayes post season to celebrate the year and consume copious amounts of Curry from own sponsors The Blue Bengal, Carshalton and the OWA definitely benefited from bar takings! James Eglon won the clubman of the year trophy and Jon Howe the Clarke Quarrington for reinvigorating the ways and means scene with events such as the Clapham night and the eliminator. Ed Healey was the 1s player of the year. Matt Williams picked up the golden boot and Teddy Farmer was the young player of the year. We also had the huge honour of hosting the OBC Senior Cup Final and the AFA Intermediate Final.

The school games ran well again with the Old Boys winning the matches but very few schoolboys are playing for the sides and this is something that we need to rectify.

The season may be over but training begins soon whilst the 5 a side is on Sunday 12th August after Richard Smart ran a successful event last year.

As mentioned we won the Ian Hamilton Trophy. This was poignant given the sudden death of Ian Forbes this season. Ian gave so much the FC and was the major part of the excellent hospitality that our guests receive. This award is definitely dedicated to him. Ian is sorely missed but the legacy that he has left makes the club what it is today.

I would like to go on record in thanking the skippers and the committee for their continued hard work and support. Many people do not realise how much voluntary time go into running club of this size. To this note a special vote of thanks go to those who are stepping down, for their services over a varying number of years.

Going forward I think the club is at a bit of crossroads (as the majority of adult football is). Availability continues to be an issue as is attendance at club events and training. It is difficult to get anyone to anything for the greater good of the club. We have fined twice for nonattendance at SAL meetings and had no one available to collect the Ian Hamilton Trophy. The FIFA night was a non-runner and we are still 2 captains short for next year. We also ran a tour which the less said about this the better. This needs to improve if the club wants to run in its current format.

The committee have talked seriously about going open and this is something they may come to next seasons AGM. In the mean time I pass on to the able hands of Alex Forbes who I know will drive us forward. One of the first things he is looking into is the further inclusion of OWFC Youth into the Senior section.

Thanks for all the help in my 2 years as Chairman, it has been an honour. I now step back to look after my 2 young children and concentrate on my new job.

Jamie Parkinson



SCHOOL REUNION

Was it really 62 Years Ago?

The class of '56 enjoy their third re-union

This was the third annual dinner of the Class of '56 and there was much to admire as the participants assembled in Maidstone, with Tony Ides legs – there must surely be some health and safety regulations which forbid such a show of indecency, and Stan Honor's shirt particularly taking the eye.

Then there was Vic Bennett, always a Walter Mitty type of character – remember his annual claims that he had won the Victor Ludorum three years in a row at the OWA Dinners for example, who informed me that his secret to keeping a full head of hair similarly had a touch of fantasy about it. I had agreed to travel with Terry Adams, Bill Hartley and Alan Wilson from Bromley South station. "Don't be late and make sure you buy a ticket", Bill had told the rest of us a few days beforehand.

Terry was the first to arrive and bought a ticket, but only for the outward journey and before he realised he had said ticket in his hand. "You should have told me before that you wanted a return", protested the ticket seller, "most people do not want to come back to Bromley, so I'm a bit surprised that you do!"

Terry's error meant that, instead of costing an extra 20p or so, he would now have to pay nearly £13 to get back home – it's amazing what a Wilson's education can do for you. Alan arrived soon afterward and, lastly, Bill – he wasn't late; just the last to arrive. The journey was uneventful and we arrived in plenty of time to book in at the Travel Lodge before taking a leisurely stroll to the pub rendezvous before making our way to the restaurant.

So what has become of those freckle faced youngsters who assembled nervously in the playground in Wilson Rd back in September 1956? Some, of course, will be familiar to Old Wilsonians as they have played a great part in the life of the OWA over the years.

Bob (Bevan) and ***Bill (Hartley)*** have both been Presidents of the Association, ***Terry (Adams)*** as well as being the first member of the football club to play 1,000 games, has also been its President and ***Rod (Warboys)*** has been President of the Cricket Club, whilst it is still not known whether or not he has officially retired from playing for us, but what of the rest, all of whom may not be that familiar to you(?)

Let's start with the McDowell contingent – back in those days McDowell always won everything and the winner of the Victor Ludorum invariably came from that House, but it was never ***Vic (Bennet),*** although he was a member of McDowell, as were ***Gerry Bourne, Alan Dyne, Tony Ide*** and ***Alan Wilson.***

McDowell boys always had a feeling of superiority over the rest of us which even manifests itself today, as Vic, Tony and Gerry sat on the top table – surely they could have found room for the two Alans, too, or did they have a class structure even amongst themselves(?)

Stan (Honor) played football for the OWs for a while and maybe ***Len (Bateman)*** but I might be wrong about that – tend to be wrong about a lot of things. ***Pete (Wilkinson)*** is the eldest of us all and was a fine footballer and also accomplished on the cricket pitch, but never played for the OWs

(Stan) Palmer was known as 'Tiny' when he was at school and my brother John said that he looked after him when he first went to the school – bit embarrassing really, as I obviously was not performing my big brother function properly. Have to confess that I do not remember ***(Richard) Burger*** that well during my time in SE5 but he was a regular attendee at Old Boys Dinners whilst ***(Alan) Wilson*** is now a regular member of OWLs at Hayes.

Alan also made an impassioned speech mid meal, reminiscing how lucky we all were to be growing up at a time when there was a lot of excellent music to listen to and fashions to enjoy – you forgot the rationing and the bomb sites, Alan. As has already been inferred, we spent the night at the Maidstone Travel Lodge, apart from 'The Cat', that is, whose Carer came to pick him up after the meal. Rumour has it that he is currently on tour with his one man show, which, even by his standards, is a pretty small audience.

After the meal some went back to the Pub, although Gerry, Pete and I returned to the lodge for a quiet chat and drink and, surprise, surprise, they, and Terry Adams, were the only people I saw at breakfast the following morning. I had to make an early start as I needed to get to Broadstairs for the 1st XI's cricket match against said seaside town. It had been a busy week for me as I had spent Monday to Thursday in Blackpool at the Pensioners' Parliament, so it was particularly good to see the Class of '56 on the Friday knowing that they, too, are interested in the Pensioners lot.

In my haste to catch a train from Maidstone East to Broadstairs, changing at Ashford International, I left a letter in my room – it had been waiting for me upon my return from the north. I had written to Guy Opperman, the Minister for Work and Pensions, asking him why the triple lock, which guarantees that the state pension rises by at least 2.5% every year, does not apply to those on Pensions credit.

Rather than answering it himself he had passed my letter onto the Department of Work and Pensions, who were able to inform me that the Government had been able to give those involved an increase "by a small amount" – it turned out that this was an over generous "20p for single people and 9p for couples".

I have subsequently advised those affected not to spend it all at once and will be eternally grateful to the Travel Lodge for forwarding the letter – I called them on the Sunday morning to confess leaving it behind – and feel that I should send them the postage money, which amounts to five weeks payment for a couple!

And so ended our third get together and I am sure that everyone will join me in thanking Vic Bennett, who organised the event and who instigated it in the first place, who worked so hard getting us together and ensuring that we had such an enjoyable evening, and I look forward to next year when, hopefully, even more members of 'The Class of '56' will be able to join us – please get in touch if you wish to do so.

Alex Forbes claims that the "numbers have doubled since the last catch up" which is a slight exaggeration, but then the Forbes family only deal in 'doubles', but perhaps we should see this as a challenge and prove him to be, literally, correct. Mike Pike

CRICKET CLUB

READY STEADY GO - The Cricket season starts here

The start of any cricket season is always filled with expectation and anticipation and the 2018 season is no different than any other as far as the Old Wilsonians are concerned. Writing this on the first Bank holiday in May the sun is shining and the season has started with three of our five Saturday league teams winning – technically this was four as the 5th XI's opponents failed to raise a side and so conceded the fixture.

Before the start of each of the games a minute's silence was held in honour of Ian Forbes as

this was the first full weekend of the season since his death, and all players wore black arm-bands as a mark of respect, and, 48 hours later, our Sunday Development side, champions of the Kent League last season, played Old Suttonians, champions of the Surrey League last season, to determine the top side in the south, with Suttonians coming out on top with a 40 run victory.

Those of you who read the cricket report in the last NOW will remember that the 2017 was one of great success and we intend building on that this year. Believe it or not a great deal of work goes on during the winter to ensure that everything is ready for the new season with the committee working extremely hard to make this possible, whilst the players themselves take advantage of winter nets from January onwards. The Club will again be led by Chairman Paul Maxwell but there has been a change of leadership as far as the colts are concerned with Barrie Frampton taking over from Adrian Beckett, whom we thank for his dedication and leadership. The other major change is that Jasper Gundry-White takes over from Paul Jenkins as our President, difficult shoes to fill, and may I draw your attention in particular to President's Day on July 22nd, which heralds the start of our now well established cricket week.

On the field of play Michael Mitchell continues to skipper the 1st XI but the 2nd XI have a new captain in the shape of Sanath Dandeniya, whilst the 3rd XI sees Howard Abbett take on the reigns from Laki Kasturiratne, who has decided to devote his seemingly inexhaustible energy to co-ordinating the Feeder league sides. Jeff Mascerenhas continues to lead the 4th XI and Alex Forbes the 5ths, whilst on Sundays Tony Sherlock is again leading the social side, aided and abetted by Paul Jenkins, and Chris Scott the Sunday development side.

Regular colts training started on May 4th whilst their league season started three days earlier as the future of our club made their first steps in what we hope will be a long and fruitful relationship with the OWCC .This year marks the 21st anniversary of the forming of the colts section, almost certainly the best decision we have ever made, and we intend to celebrate it in style. Laurence Allen - and congratulations to him and his wife Guilia on the birth of their son, Matthew. Malcolm - continues to update the cricket section of the OWA website where you can find results and reports of our fixtures.

Our monthly newsletter may also be of interest to all of you who do not wish to wait until the publication of this excellent magazine to discover the endeavours of all of our sides.
Finally may I, on behalf of not only the cricket club but the Association per se, thank Colin McCausland, our grounds-man of almost 30 years, for his hard work and dedication over those years. When Colin joined us back in 1988 a number of the current sections of the club did not exist – e,g, the junior elements of the cricket, football and tennis clubs – whilst the Tennis Club itself has grown to the extent that it has 500 members, all of which has made more work for Colin.

We wish him, wife Theresa their family a long and rewarding retirement and thank them for all the work they have put in to make Old Wilsonians one of the most respected clubs in the county of Kent.

Mike Pike, Secretary OWCC

OBITUARY

PETER HUBERT



A fond farewell to a lovely man and great Old Wilsonian

A number of Old Wilsonians attended Peter Hubert's funeral on June 22nd where we were made to feel very welcome by his family on a very difficult day for them and we offer our sincere thanks and condolences to Manie, Susannah and Virginia. Peter's death was a great loss to all of those who knew him – and some tributes are included in this article – but it is difficult to imagine the feelings of his wife and two daughters at this time; he and Manie had been married for 57 years.

The 'celebration' of Peter's life was held at the Tunbridge Wells crematorium and Freddie, one of his grand-children, read a poem on behalf of all of the grand-children which was beautifully delivered and a credit to both him and those he was representing. There were also two eulogies, both of which appear later in this magazine, one from Ian Macfarlane, a former work colleague at Lloyds and the other by Jay Roseveare, Peter's brother-in-law, whilst the ceremony ended to the strains of the theme music from 'Test Match special', so appropriate for a man who loved his cricket and was one of the out-standing practitioners of the art as he represented Old Wilsonians with such distinction over a number of years. Those tributes, from some of Peter's contemporaries and others whom he knew, are printed below:

From Norman Tucker
For my part my mind is so full of the time Peter, Angela (Norman's wife) and I spent together. Peter and I first met when, in the autumn of 1945 when we were being outfitted in the school for our uniforms. The store was in what later became the School Secretary's office. Our conversation continued in the playground among what remained of the 5 emergency water tanks - a hangover from WWII.

That is 73 years ago.We spent holiday times, week-ends, and, of course, on a Saturday night in our home in Beckenham when, after carousing in the club, it was too late for Peter to get home to Streatham and back to Hayes for the 11.00am start of the Sunday's cricket.
Add to that all the lunches when Peter and I were in the Lloyd's market, he an Aviation underwriter, and I a Marine underwriter. Eventually we each were elected a Member of that

august body. Later, when Angela and I were living in New Jersey, Peter and Manie came to stay for about a week. Peter and I would have a good lunch whenever I was back in London town.

So much has passed between us during those 73 years that my mind is overflowing with endless memories. It is oh so difficult to believe I can no longer hear his voice. So sad indeed. Our small band of close friends is reducing one by one,

From Coin Smith
Very sad news; had some great times with Peter in what was our best ever Sunday side.
From Malcolm Taylor
Sorry to hear about Peter Hubert, he was a lovely man, a real gentleman.
From Jill Forbes
How sad. He was always a real gentleman and so thoughtful and kind. I am really sorry to hear of his passing away. He was of the Ken Sawyer era and the Fitzsimmons, as well as Mike Kendrick and Les Wilkes.
From Bob Chapman
Just heard the sad news that Peter passed away following cancer. I worked in Lloyds with him and he was a gentleman. Very sad
From Bob Bevan
I have such happy memories of him going back to circa 1962 which must have been when we first met. Such a great bloke as confirmed by the attendance yesterday. Bob, who then went on to the Kent County cricket game after the celebration of Peter's life, also writes as follows with regard to what subsequently happened: "As you know I left you to go back to the cricket where I bumped into another old friend, Roger Alwen, legend at Lloyd's and former Chairman of Charlton Athletic. On telling him where I had been I was amazed to find that he knew Peter well and that they had played cricket together for Lloyd's.

Even more amazing was that on their way to the ground that morning, and getting caught in the traffic, they spotted a hearse and decided that, as the crematorium was near the ground, and the driver probably knew the back doubles, they would follow him. As they turned off to go to the ground Heather said she would say a prayer for the departed to thank him for getting them through the traffic. On checking the timings we decided it must have been Peter they were saying a prayer for. Spooky but rather nice I think"

On the back of the order of service there is a photograph of a very young looking Peter leaning on his bat, but the family are unsure as to where it was taken. It certainly is not Hayes and my guess is the old school ground at Dulwich, where the Old Wilsonians used to play their cricket and football before moving to Hayes Hill in 1959.

If I can conquer my inability to send photographs by email I will send it to Malcolm for inclusion in 'NOW' in the hope that someone can solve this mystery. Beneath the picture is the following quotation from 'Hamlet', which I would not presume to even match, let alone better:
"Good night sweet prince: And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest"

Mike Pike; and Shakespeare!

The following article appeared in the June edition of the cricket newsletter

Sad to report that Peter Hubert, one of our Vice Presidents, a former 1st XI captain, who was equally at home with both a bat and a ball in his hand and an excellent fielder, died on May 27th at the age of 83. He had been ill for some time and our thoughts go out to his wife, Manie, his two daughters, Susannah and Virginia, and the rest of the Hubert family.

Peter was a tall, elegant man, assets which he used to full advantage when playing cricket, and a true gentleman. When I called him, far less frequently than I should have done, he was always full of enthusiasm for the OWCC and apologetic that his failing health did not enable him to visit the club as often as he would have liked. He was an integral part of the 1st XI when the Club moved to Hayes in 1959 and when we played at Dulwich in our previous incarnation, and I first encountered him sitting in a ditch – me, that is, not Peter – in Dulwich Common when Bob Moy, who was the school's 1st XI scorer at the time, gave me my first lessons in scoring as the Old Wilsonians played a game.

We called the bowlers 'X'. 'Y', 'Z' and Hubert - Peter was the only one whom Bob knew, as Peter had demonstrated how to bowl in a House assembly and Bob, who was a junior member of the same House at the time, remembered him doing so. But it was at Hayes that Peter really made his mark, being part of that out-standing Old Wilsonian side of the 1960s and 70s. He was a middle order batsman and such was the strength of our batting that he was lucky to make it to the crease but, one year, he needed 30 or so runs from the last game of the season to complete 1,000 runs.

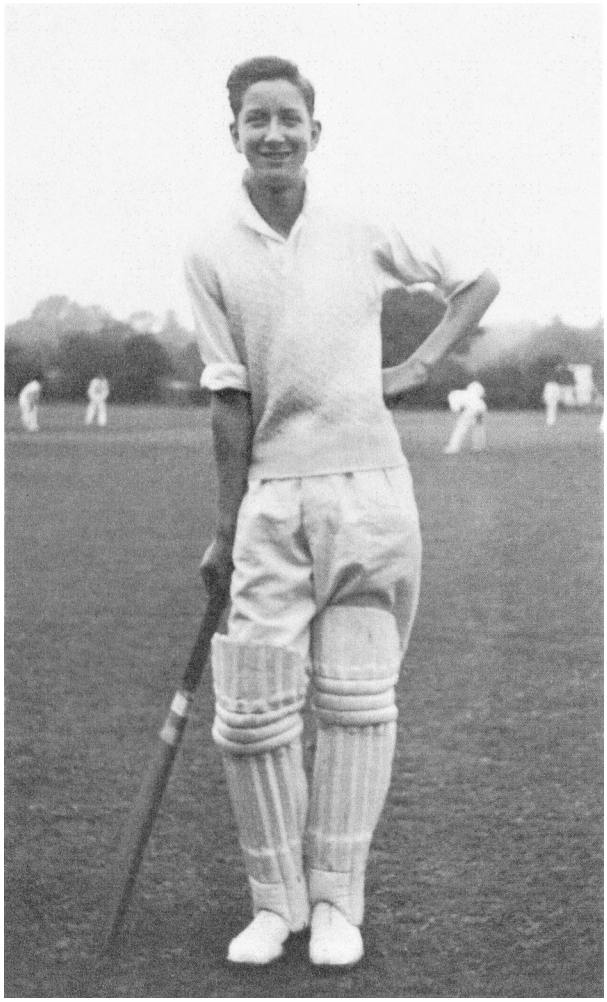
The game was played at Old Dunstonians and they batted first and were dismissed for less than 50 - Peter no doubt made a huge contribution to this demolition job. A dilemma now raised its head in that we had a middle order batsman needing a little less than the total we required to win the game in order to complete his 1,000 runs, so it was agreed that he should open, and his opening partner would give him as much of the bowling as possible – the plan worked, Peter got the runs he needed and we won the game.

When he stopped playing Peter umpired many games for us, the perfect example of someone putting something back into the club he had served with such distinction both on and off the field of play, and he invariably came to Linden Park when the OWs played there to support the side – he lived at nearby Pembury.

When she was six his eldest daughter, Susannah, wrote to me on behalf of herself and her four year old sister Virginia, asking me to stop arranging cricket fixtures - I was the fixtures secretary at the time - as I was "taking their Daddy away from them on a Saturday afternoon" (This was not quite as confrontational as it might at first seem as the letter ended, delightfully, 'We like you, really'). Not long after, I met the two sisters at the annual Donkey Derby, an experience which I hope has not scarred them too deeply. Peter enjoyed reading this newsletter and was one of only three members who received it through the post. He had ventured down the road of technology but, and as he put it, "I like sitting in a chair to read it rather than in front of a computer screen'.

He was a great fan of 'Countdown' - he even applied to become a participant – and also enjoyed doing crosswords, and he continued to watch the programme, and complete crosswords, right up until the end. Most people would include Peter in an all-time best Old Wilsonian side – I certainly did – and we will all miss him, but it is only right that Susannah should have the final words:" We are all knocked sideways. He has been the most splendid Dad, notwithstanding those bloomin' cricket weekends in the 70s!"

Mike Pike – and Susannah!



Does anyone recognise where this photo was taken. Old Boys Sportsground at Dulwich? Mike Pike would be pleased to hear from you if you know.

EULOGY BY IAN MACFARLANE

I am pleased and honoured to have been asked to speak today about …
MEMORIES OF PETER HUBERT

Lloyd's box? When I started in 1972 I thought that was protection for the England opening batsman!
But that's where Peter spent much of his career – sitting ON a box (the market lingo for a desk) at Lloyd's of London in Lime Street EC3.
The Frizzell aviation syndicate, as deputy to John Hoggard is where we have a picture of Peter ON Box 135.
A typical 8-seater box included THE underwriter - John Hoggard, was King, the deputy, Peter, jack ….of-all-trades and there were 6 …. Jokers!
Peter as underwriter I believe became a LEADER in helicopter business and also underwrote that new-fangled space business which took off in the 60s and Peter met an astronaut (or rather the astronaut met Peter!) connected with a Lloyd's funded rescue mission boldly going to retrieve a straying satellite.
Susannah reminded me that Lloyd's and Peter sometimes got involved in insuring people as well as things and sometimes people's things!
We believe this included hands of at least one Rolling Stone (Mick or Keef) and possibly Australian cricketer Merv Hughes' walrus moustache.
I won't mention what part of Keiran Lee was insured at Lloyd's for one million dollars!
Together the syndicates were Lloyd's but they were separate organisations competing for the attentions and thus the business of Lloyd's brokers every Monday to Friday in The ROOM – Peter's home away from home. When Peter started at Lloyd's … NO WOMEN …..now Dame Inga Beale runs the place!

On retiring Peter turned to violence … surely not!?
There is a picture of him <u>not</u> helping police with their enquiries but battering John Westcott who as Chairman of the Lloyd's Aviation Underwriters Association had just presented Peter with a croquet set as a retirement gift – no harm done ..just A good AND fun photo!
We are in the 1990s now and the market showed that they didn't want Peter to go (and Manie who married Peter for better or worse …. But not for lunch every day, just yet) so he became a consultant to the trade association, the LAUA and had a desk (before they became workstations) in Room 662 in the iconic 1986 Richard Rogers designed oil rig/coffee percolator/inside out building.
Peter would join us in the office every week – I think the tallest of us (JOHN??), certainly the only hat wearer … a trilby-ish style? And until the law changed, smoking his Hamlet cigars?
As a consultant Peter was ideally positioned to chair the JTCC – Joint Technical and Clauses Committee which served both the Lloyd's and company aviation markets.

You may think YOUR household or motor insurance policies are dry reading well the JTCC dealt with perhaps even more arid wordings and clauses
(read ……. AVN38B/AVN71) etcetc

These are what the worldwide aviation insurance market and the airlines and manufacturers as insureds had their policies based on.
When claims can run into hundreds of millions of pounds, dollars etc it is essential that the wordings are accurate and absolutely correct. Peter was very much involved with my predecessor as LAUA secretary, Ted Willoughby, colleague John Gurtenne, also here today and me in carrying out the 'Blue Book' review. Blue for aviation not the rude blue! (**SHOW**…….. NO PLOT BUT A GREAT ENDING!).
This was as instructed by Terry Pitron (here as well) and his fellow Committee members.
This was an ideal task for Peter and his way with words, meanings and exactness – avoiding clichés like the plague and of course using prepositions but not to end a sentence with! Peter and the rest of us in the LAUA office would proof read all day every day for what seemed like months (I think it actually was) with our only breaks when Susannah visited! Peter's expertise shone through making our new Blue Book a worldwide best seller (sadly no royalties for the editorial team). Peter is credited in another book **WHICH I HAVE HERE** "Aviation Insurance" by Rod Margo who cannot be with us today but remembers Peter very fondly.

Peter and his deputy John Smith did great work as a double act on JTCC but Peter felt that the supporting cast were not pulling their weight and looking to the future Peter wrote a fairly hard-hitting paper and submitted it to LAUA and AIOA committees who both acted on it, strengthening the JTCC with experts who made the JTCC much better and fit for purpose.Personally, Peter was always there for me and Manie you may remember a number evenings when I rang your home from the LAUA office … 'It's Ian ..' you would say and Peter ALWAYS provided sound sense answers to my sometimes no-sense queries!

With, 'my work here is done', Peter slipped away from JTCC but still visited Lloyd's for a haircut and to see colleagues with his cheery
What have you got to tell me John? Well I think we can all TELL you today
Peter ……
YOU ARE REMEMBERED WITH VERY GREAT AFFECTION BY YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND EC3COLLEAGUES.

Peter John Hubert

TRIBUTE FROM JAY ROSEVEARE

Peter had already retired as an underwriter before I married his sister and got to know him having, so thank you, Ian, for that insight into his working life. I have also been considerably helped by Peter himself as,while tracing his family's history, he wrote some notes about his

own life. To supplement those, I have asked several people who have known him at various points in his life if they could give me three words or phrases that either described, or reminded them of, Peter. A staggering number of those little lists included the words “true gentleman”.
Peter was born on 17th September 1934 in East Dulwich Hospital in South East London. He was not even five when the Second World War started, so it is hardly surprising that many of his childhood memories were associated with bombing and the Blitz. Aged ten, a sense of civic duty prompted him to take something he had found in a hedge on the High Street and drop it in to the local police station. As it was obvious to everyone else what he was carrying he was responsible for emptying Camberwell New Road and the premature aging of the police officer behind the desk on which Peter had just dropped a live incendiary bomb.

Peace eventually came, and Peter went to Wilson’s Grammar School in Camberwell where he did very well becoming in due course, Captain of cricket, Captain of Chess, Captain of table tennis and, for his last term, School captain or Head Boy. It is not surprising that a school friend recently described him as “Tall and brilliant at everything” which is a reputation even Peter would have found rather daunting. He did, however continue playing cricket for the Old Wilsonians until 1984 and I believe there are SEVEN of his fellow players here today.
1952 was a significant year for two reasons. As well as Queen Elizabeth II acceding to the throne, Peter Hubert joined the RAF as a potential pilot. To set this in some context, the RAF were at that stage still training in Tiger Moths – biplanes with open cockpits.Peter planned to make flying his career and signed up for a Short Service Commissionwhich proved rather shorter than anyone had intended as the RAF did not share his enthusiasm for low flying. He was found with too many motorway level bugs on his windscreen and was grounded, so he resigned his commission. He then found he had to do National Service instead. It must have been someone with a very warped sense of humour who assigned him to Air Traffic Control.
On completing his two years National Service, denied the chance to fly, and without any other clear ideas for an alternative career, Peter was introduced by his father to Harris Lebus, a large furniture manufacturer based in Tottenham. Peter worked for them on the sales side in London and in Manchester for five years before looking for something more interesting. A friend suggested Lloyd’s of London and he started working as a junior aviation broker with Sedgwick Collins in 1959 and later switched to underwriting when he joined Frizzells, an aviation syndicate. Ian has given us an outline of Peter’s career at Lloyd’s so I am not going to risk confusion (mine!) by going into that – except to mention a story Peter enjoyed telling. It was May 1968 when young Peter arrived in France to play cricket for Lloyd’s. It was also when the students were rioting in Paris. The French customs official saw, not a cricket bat, but an offensive weapon bound for Paris. Peter’s vigorous efforts to demonstrate its correct use

apparently had the same effect on the customs hall as he had achieved in Camberwell New Road with an incendiary bomb, but, being Peter, he charmed his way through in the end.
With Lloyd's came stability. On 25 February 1961, he and Manie Hammond were married in Caxton Hall Registry Office and moved to Beckenham. After four years they moved to Tonbridge and two daughters later moved to The Forresters in Pembury where they settled down. He continued to play cricket for the Old Wilsonians and Tonbridge - and joined Lamberhurst Golf Club.

He and Manie were happily married for 57 years and gave their two daughters – Susannah and Virginia – what one of them described to me as "a simple but idyllicchildhood".They remember Peter playing the piano and singing Bing Crosby songs while Manie prepared dinner. It is worth pointing out that Peter had somewhere along the line taught himself to play piano and played by ear.Susannah and Virginia independently described playing 'test matches' with their father in the garden and thoroughly enjoying it. The family will sorely miss him.
It is nigh on impossible to precis a man's life in five minutes and everyone here will add their ownmemories and anecdotes to this outline but how to evoke Peter in a few words? Jazz? Aviation?Cricket? But always, always a true gentleman!