

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY.

NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 1972

Hon. Secretary:

J.P.T. Martin,
33 Royal Avenue,
Tonbridge.
Tel. 63805

President:

P.A.W. Howe

Hon. Treasurer:

B. Welcome,
Rhydlanfair,
17 Northleigh Close,
Loose, Maidstone.

RECENT EVENTS

Annual General Meeting

The A.G.M. was held in the School Library on 21 January, chaired by Colin Haylor, past President of the Society. The meeting agreed to the proposals for amending the membership clauses of the Rules of the Society, which appeared in the last Newsletter, namely:

"that Old Boys whose subscriptions are more than one year in arrears shall cease to be members of the Society, having been duly reminded of their arrears of subscription", and

"that the free introductory year of membership of the Society be discontinued but that for July leavers the first subscription of 50p shall cover the period to the end of the next whole calendar year".

The meeting was happy to confirm P.A.W. Howe as President of the Society for 1972 and the existing Treasurer and Secretary in office for a further year. Alex Stewart was confirmed by acclamation as assistant Hon. Secretary and Paul Watts was elected as Membership Secretary. John Berg was adopted as President-elect. The other members of this year's committee are E. Clifford, P. Cook, C. Harden (co-opted), P. Kent, D. Larkin, P. Mayor, C. Miles, A. Newman, M. Rand and J. Toombs. Ken Loveland, as representative of the School Governors, continues as Chairman. The acting Headmaster, Mr. Rylands, and Mr. Morgan, staff representative, make up the team.

The Annual Rugby Match was played on 22 March. A strong O.M. side won by 29 - 6. It should be stated however that the School side must have had one of the best records in Kent for the '71-'72 season, with 18 wins out of 21 matches played and an aggregate score of 452 points against 98.

The Annual Soccer Match played on 23 March saw the Old Maidstonians field probably their strongest side since this annual match started in '69, and as a result they recorded their biggest victory. The O.Ms played the first 20 minutes of this game with only ten players. However this did not prevent the O.Ms having the better of the play. They took the lead after some 15 minutes when left back Ralph Luck headed a goal. Soon after their eleventh player arrived, the O.Ms got two more goals, scored by Mick James and went still further ahead when Mick Brooker scored following a free-kick by Ralph Luck. Very soon after the second half began the School managed to pull one back and for the next ten minutes they played their best football. However the O.Ms soon came back into the game and went on to score four more goals, through: Mick James (2), Ray Harwood, and Alan Stewart. Just before the end of the game Gary Jacobi scored a second goal for the School.

O.Ms side: C. Miles, P. Wright, A. Stewart, R. Harwood, R. Luck, R. Stoor, C. Jordan, S. Edwards, M. Brooker, T. Harbord, M. James.

The Annual Supper was held on Saturday 25 March at the Corpus Christi Hall in Earl Street, now owned by Whitbread Fremlin, but which housed the School for over 300 years before it moved in 1871 to its Tonbridge Road site. The Hall is now a masterpiece of restoration, following 100 years of neglect. Pupils' inscriptions dating back to the early 19th century were still decipherable in the wooden window sills. Jack Burke, retiring President, was happily able to be present this year. Ken Loveland fulfilled an intention of long-standing by proposing the toast of the School. A schoolboy between 1918 and 1925 he spoke with affection

of the headmasters and assistant masters of his schooldays, many of whom would have been familiar to his audience. Ken has in fact not missed one Annual Supper since leaving the School. Jack Burke through force of circumstance had been unable to participate as actively in the life of the Society; this Annual Supper, he confided in his speech, had however made him realize for the first time the true significance of the Society, whose existence gave expression to the gratitude and recognition of many generations of Old Boys for the benefit derived from the School. He was pleased to pass on the chain of office to P.A.W. Howe, Head of the School in 1928. Mr. Howe expressed the earnest hope that the most apt venue could be used for future Old Boys functions. The committee certainly have this in mind and it is intended that the 1973 Supper should return to the Corpus Christi Hall.

Small bore rifle shooting This summer the Society has formed a regular rifle team which has been entered for the Maidstone & District Small bore Rifle and Pistol League rapid fire competition. This type of competition requires a number of ten-bull targets to be fired throughout the season, each within 90 seconds. The team members are John Hardy 1963, Chris Clifton 1964 and Hon. Treasurer Bryan Welcome '54

STAFF NEWS - PAST AND PRESENT

The Shropshireman In the last issue of the Newsletter we read about the appointment of Headmaster Mr. B.J. Moody to his new post of Director of Studies at Sandhurst and the part he played in the history of Maidstone Grammar School. In a future Newsletter we shall read more of his successor Dr. P.A.J. PETIT and there will be an opportunity to meet him at the next Annual Supper. But what about the man who applies the maxim he knows well from his drama experience that "The show must go on". What do we know about him? Second Master Mr. R.R. Rylands M.B.E., T.D., M.A., is the man who so ably carried out this duty of tiding the School over between Headmasters and provides the essential ingredient of continuity which moderates change and tempers the shock that a change of leader can bring. Bob Rylands as he is known to many of us has now been a master at our School for 25 years. He joined the school staff after being "demobbed", at the end of the last war, from the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, with the rank of major. He had served with the 2nd Battalion throughout the War and spent much of his time in Holland and France, where I suspect he got his taste for wine and so developed an enthusiasm for making his own. His service with this regiment was no accident, for his home county is Shropshire where he was born the son of a family with a long tradition of farming. To this day he is never happier than when he has the feel of mother earth beneath his boots and would dearly welcome the chance to exchange his cycle for a horse to ride to school on. After the war Bob was appointed to the English staff of the School despite the fact that he couldn't satisfy the requirement of playing a musical instrument (other than the mouth-organ), which it was rumoured almost cost him the job. In 1952 he succeeded Mr. R. Lye as Head of the English Department and was four years later in 1956 appointed Second Master to Mr. W.A. Claydon on the retirement of Mr. G.B. Phillips. There can be few facets of School life that have not felt the encouragement and active participation of R.R.R. Editor of the Maidstonian; Officer with the C.C.F. since joining the School (and still never misses a camp); producer of junior and senior school plays; rugger coach, and numerous other activities. Bob has served on our Society's Committee almost as long as he has been at the School and is the only serving member of staff to have been elected to Honorary Membership by the Society. In 1968 he was elected President of the Society and is still one of the Committee's most loyal and active members, having produced the twice yearly Newsletter until handing over this task to John Martin this year. A moment of well-deserved recognition came to Bob in 1968 when he was honoured by the Queen and went to Buckingham Palace to receive his M.B.E. for his services to the Combined Cadet Force.

These few words were intended to provide a brief pen picture of the modest man who plays such a large part in the smooth functioning of our School and Society. How lucky we are to have him with us, and how fortunate will be the new Headmaster.

B.W.

Old Maidstonians will be sad to hear of the death of Mr. H.B. Matthews in December 1971. Mr. Matthews will be remembered by many, who as budding chemists, were continually being constrained by him to learn their "valency tables" and perhaps by other, less scientific, Old Boys as the dispenser of School play tickets.

We learn from Mr. E.C. Julier that Mr. J.A. Tebbs is still in fine form. His daughter married Michael Tillet (1940) who is now Director of Music at Highgate, having moved there from Rugby in 1969. Mr. Tillet writes that at a party recently J.A.T. "took the evening over" with a fine panache.

The Rev. John Priestman, geography master at the School in the 1950's prior to entering the Ministry, and lately vicar of Loose, has moved to take up a new living at Christ Church, South Ashford.

Mr. D.G. Carter is leaving King Alfred's College Winchester to join the Inspectorate in Scotland.

Mr. J.D. Faulkner and his charming French wife will soon be leaving Belfast as he has been appointed Head of Languages at the Thomas Barnett Comprehensive School, Crawley, a post of large responsibility.

Mrs. Pauline Hallanzy is raising two children and teaching part-time; her husband Rigo has been appointed Head of Modern Languages at a comprehensive school near Chester-le-Street.

Mr. M. Binks has become an Educational Adviser in English and Humanities for the Sheffield Education Authority.

Mr. J.D. Taylor will take up the appointment of Head of the Chemistry Dept. at Haverfordwest G.S. next September.

Mr. J.A.P. Jones recently on the History staff, has published a book "King John and Magna Carta" and also had an article in "Teaching History" published by The Historical Association in May: he outlines in it the School's Mode III history and hence work launched by Mr. Portal and continued by Mr. Walsh. Mr. Jones is now in charge of History at Huddersfield New College.

Mr. M.P. Cook, currently on the Staff, shared the lead in the Premier Section of the Folkestone Chess Congress.

STOP PRESS

Dr. P.A.J. Pettit, due to take up his appointment as Headmaster of M.G.S. in September, has lately been principal of St. John's College at Jos in N. Nigeria. He is married with three daughters. The congratulations and good wishes of the Society have been sent to him and we look forward to a continuance of the close and happy relationship between Headmaster and Society.

NEWS OF OLD MAIDSTONIANS

Haydn Abbott (1958) is working for Schlumberger Overseas in N. Sumatra, in jungle conditions: "speeding around the jungle in a landrover and occasionally going to work offshore, which entails flying in helicopters or riding in speedboats". He passed out top of the Schlumberger school in Australia to qualify as an oil engineer. Tom Ashe (1968) and his wife are both teachers in Sidcup. As well as teaching English and Games at Sidcup Boys' Secondary School he is following a B.A. Hons. correspondence course in English.

John Ashe (1969) lately at the New University of Ulster is now working in the Belfast Local Government Planning Office.

Mike Ashe (1971) has finished his first year at the New University of Ulster studying English and Fine Arts.

Brendan Ashe (1971) is making progress as a musician at his new school in Blandford.

Bob Beale (1960) Head of the English Department at Cheltenham Grammar School has had an article on English projects published in the Times Educational Supplement of 5 May 1972.

Martin Beer (1969) is enjoying life at Royal Holloway College, London and has won repute there as a photographer.

R.G. Brown (1957) is living in Epinal in the Vosges. His wife Martine had a baby, Susan, in December. Richard teaches English to students of computer science in Nancy; when not looking after the baby, Martine is a school "surveillante".

David Bunch (1963) is preparing for a Ph.D. an evaluative study of schools for maladjusted children. He graduated with a B.Sc. in Sociology in 1970 and is now at Red Hill School at East Sutton. He is married with two little girls. His wife, a social worker, is also on the staff at Red Hill.

J.C. Burfoot (1943) wrote to enquire about the history of Maidstone after re-visiting the town. He is on the staff of the Physics Faculty at Queen Mary College, London.

Jack Burke (195) now has a regular one-man spot, "The Burke Special", on BBC1 on

Thursday evenings, exploring some intriguing aspects of life today and in the future
Major Bernard Calladine (1948) It was with great regret that we learned of the tragic death of Major Calladine, killed in Ulster on active service in command of a bomb disposal unit on 30 March this year. During his school career, beginning in 1943, he was an active sportsman and a keen member of the C.C.F. and in the course of his national service was commissioned in the R.A.O.C. After a long spell of foreign service he was posted Commander of bomb disposal to Northern Command in York in 1970 and was transferred to Ulster in November 1971. He leaves a widow and family.

2nd Lt. D.C.S. Chater (1972) on his Short Service Limited Commission passed from Mons to Hong Kong via Cyprus and the Maldive Islands. He is serving with the Ghurkas and is about to start a jungle training course in Brunei. He is trying to learn Ghurkali by weekly sessions in a language lab. to support what he is picking up directly.

Richard Clark (1960) is seeking a music post in Sudbury.

Norman Cook (1924) has retired as Director of the Museum of London; he has taken on the honorary curatorship of the Wells Museum, Somerset.

Air Commodore I.J. de la Plain (1936) retired from the R.A.F. in April this year.

C.E. Drury (1967) has been accepted by MIT (Massachusetts Inst. of Technology).

Dr. Paul East (1963) married Audie Chapman in Washington D.C. on 9th April 1972.

Howard Evans (1965) is Uganda-bound in the autumn after being recruited by the Overseas Development Administration to teach physics in Mbale. After graduating in maths and physics at Sussex he joined the staff of Hemel Hempstead School.

Stephen Gibbs (1968) has been awarded a Japanese Government Scholarship for post-graduate studies in drama at Kyoto University. He leaves in October. He has been reading English Literature at New College, Oxford, where he followed up his early excursion into 'No' drama at MGS by writing and producing a play in the "No" tradition.

CEA D. Hambrook (1962) played for the Royal Navy XV throughout last season and represented the Combined Services against the French Armed Forces.

W. Harris (1949) has recently been promoted Royal Navy Commander. Having served an apprenticeship for artificer he qualified as a chartered engineer in 1962. He recently served with the Ministry of Technology on guided missile development and is now with H.M.S. Diomedé.

Deputy Chief Constable of Kent, E. Haslam (1934) tackled a masked gunman at Upchurch in February, who kept a family of five hostage in their home for 7½ hours. Mr. Haslam, posing as a child welfare officer, talked to the gunman for nearly two hours, before seizing an opportunity to disarm him.

A.B. Howells (1968) passed out from the Mons Officer Cadet School in May. He was commissioned in the RCT.

Peter Kemp (1963) has obtained a Ph.D. and been elected Fellow of Gonville and Caius College Cambridge, where he has been appointed Director of Studies in Mathematics.

L.G. Ludgate (1945) has been promoted Wing Commander.

Tony Lurcock is now working on a B. Litt. on 19th Century biographical writing and is back in Oxford after his long spell in Finland.

Malcolm MacCallum (1963) is now Financial Tutor at King's College Cambridge.

T. McHattie (1963) graduated at the RAF Officer Cadet Training Unit in January.

Timothy Moreton (1966) is reading for a M. Phil in the English Department at York University. Following this he hopes to study for a Ph.D. in Canada.

A.C. Parfitt (1960) is now Deputy Headmaster at Madginford Park C.P. Junior School.

Stuart Partis (1959) teaches at All Saints' College, Bathurst, N.S.W. His subjects include History, Social Studies and German and he coaches athletics, rugger and life-saving in addition to running much camping, musical and dramatic activity. He has written and produced a play about Peter the Great and made an 8mm film on the marsupial mole. He has visited India, Nepal and Ceylon.

Roger Partis (1959) has a wife and two sons and is living in King's Lynn as a public health inspector.

Quentin Partis works for export firms in Sydney and does some spare-time parachuting.

Julian Partis remains in Kent.

B. Reid (1950) was at a meeting of the Oxford Local Examinations Board in his capacity as 2nd-in-command of English at Evesham School.

Dave Sayer recently got engaged to Carol Colman

Jeremy Smith (1968) has recently sat his finals in English Literature and hopes to do postgraduate work next year. He writes of Dave Nicholls taking his finals in Leicester who has a place at a teacher training college; Brian Cook who is now married; Richard Palmer with a place at Avery Hill Teacher Training College for September; Tom Reed, who after graduating from Kent has fled to Nigeria to regenerate and Derek Hayward who is married and has a year-old son.

John White (1967) has played a major part in the development of computer systems for many of the Council's departments as well as other local authorities in Kent.

Final Examination Results

Brian Buckhurst B.A. Hons. St. David's University College, Lampeter.

Christopher Duncan (1959) Associate of King's College London

Geoffrey Emerson B.A. (Soc. Sci.) Hons. in Geography, University of Durham

Alan Gray Nat. Science Tripos Part II Genetics, Downing College, Cambridge.

Christopher Sheldon B.Sc. Hons. Physics - Exeter University.

James Shrubsole B.Sc. Hons. Engineering Metallurgy - University of Bath

John White Maths Tripos Part II St. John's College Cambridge

Institute of Chartered Accountants Examinations

Part I finals J. Garbutt (1968). G.B. Haisman (1967)

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 19 July - O.M. Cricket Match at School

Sunday 6 August - O.M. Car Treasure Hunt; a leisurely afternoon run of some 25 miles starting from the School. For further details please contact Secretary. Last year's event was very successful and a good turn-out is hoped for this year.

Friday 22 September - Recent leavers function at the Mote

Saturday 7 April 1973 - O.M. Supper at Corpus Christi Hall

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. C.P. HOLYMAN retires in July after 44 years at MGS. The Society intends to make a presentation to Mr. Holyman and O.Ms wishing to make donations should send these to the Hon. Treasurer, Bryan Wolcome at "Rhydlanfair", 17 Northleigh Close, Loose, Maidstone, preferably by the end of August.

Sporting Events

Facilities can be made available for an O.Ms Badminton Club in the Autumn, provided there is sufficient support for a regular weekly session. Please let the Secretary know if you are interested.

Some of the members of the Membership Secretary would like to trace the whereabouts

Now some items included at the request of Treasurer or Secretary:-

Please send me further details of the O.Ms Treasure Hunt to be held on Sunday 6th August 1972.

Member's name and address _____

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Due on the 1st January, to Hon. Treasurer (address on first page). Please save us the trouble and expense of reminders.

- Please note:-
1. The subscription is 50p for everybody except
 - a) life members
 - b) Hon. members
 2. If you pay by Banker's Order please
 - a) ensure that it is for 50p
 - b) ensure that it is dated 1st January
 3. Members wishing to receive the "Maidstonian" should write to Mr. N.W. Newcombe at the School, enclosing 35p which just covers costs. Postal Orders or cheques should be made out to Maidstone Grammar School Amenities Account.
 4. If you change your address, please let the Treasurer know.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Summer Holiday

Hon. Treasurer: B. Welcome,
17 Northleigh Close,
Loose, Maidstone.

Hon. Secretary: J.P.T. Martin,
33 Royal Avenue,
Tonbridge.

OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY

I enclose 50p (.....p if for more than one year), being my subscription for the year 1972 (and/or 1973)

signed

Name _____

Address _____

Year of leaving

Please tick here if you would like a Banker's Order form).