

THE OLD EDWARDIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010 / 2011

INTRODUCTION

This report officially reflects the period from the 1st of September 2010 to the 31st of August 2011. I have however, where necessary, added some current updates.

As stated in my report last year as Chairman of The Old Edwardian Society, I continue to be overwhelmed by the dedication and pride in which the majority of its members show and display towards this great institution. Without these members, the Society would be at a loss.

This year has been no exception to years gone by; it has been a very busy year for the Society and its respective sub clubs. The Society is unique in that it does not have any full time employees, like many other fortunate clubs throughout South Africa, so it is testament to the respective sub club chairman and their committees that we are able to produce and manage the results that we do. I would like to thank those respective members for their valuable time and effort, most of which is conducted after hours and over weekends.

On a personal note I would like to thank the Executive Committee for all of the support and insight, they have given me over the past year. We have a very strong, vibrant and enthusiastic committee, a committee that is very committed in delivering the best for the Society. The Society is very lucky to have the dedication and calibre of such committed people.

In addition, the Executive have been blessed to have a group of highly committed past chairmen and presidents, many honorary life members, who have meet with us on a regular basis to provide a unique sounding board on critical items facing the Society at present. Our proud history should not be forgotten and these gentlemen with over 400 years of combined years as loyal and dedicated Old Edwardian members, provide a valuable insight into where we have been and guidance on the way forward. I would like to thank them for their on-going support.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Anne Pratt. Although Anne is a Virgin Active employee, she continues to demonstrate her loyalty to the Old Edwardian Society and its membership.

This year completes the tenure of Geoff Bryant as Society President. It has been an absolute honour and pleasure working with Geoff over the past three years. The enthusiasm and dedication in which he has demonstrated towards the "office" is testament to the character of Geoff. It has been a few tough years for Geoff, with the loss of his wife Peggy and his own personal health taking its toll, yet it has not stopped him from performing his duties, (and more beyond the ask), with such vigor and dedication. You are testament to an Old Boy and a Senior Life Member of this great Society.

Executive Committee

The Society "Think Tank", held a few years ago, highlighted goals, objections and priorities that we as a group of like-minded members thought were key to the Society's future. Through initiatives from the Executive, I am happy to report that many of the objectives, as mentioned above, were met this year. We do however have a lot more work to do and we shall continue to pursue these in the New Year.

Some of the goals achieved for this past year;

Communications – the Executive agreed to employ Mike Dunk on a part time basis to structure the Society's communication. We have re-introduced the Society magazine on a quarterly basis in an electronic format – hard

copies are available on request for members. The feedback has been tremendous and I have no doubt that the editions will become better and better.

Our external communication needed improvement and as such the Society needed better exposure in the local press. This too formed part of Mike Dunk's scope and in a short period of time this has shown success with no less than twelve different articles in the local Caxton papers referring to Society matters.

Mike has been tasked to keep the Society website updated and with the help of the School, this has improved dramatically. We are about to launch, along with the School, a brand new website which is a lot fresher and user friendly.

Branding and signage – we have rolled out our new brand and again this has been very well received by the members. Our brief to the respective designer was to remember our heritage and our strong links to the School. Along with new stationery and through the bequest from Neville Cohen we have managed to erect new signage, with the new brand throughout the Society.

Donor Wall – as part of the Centenary year celebrations it was decided to create a legacy fund for the Society. I am happy to report that members who have contributed to this fund have now been recognized on a "Donor's Wall", which is situated on the foyer of the clubhouse. This fund is still running and members wanting to contribute are more than welcome to do so.

Revenue Stream – as many members may be aware the Society has no form of revenue. All subscriptions collected are paid to Virgin Active on the understanding that all of our needs are met.

Part of our strategy and thinking from the "Think Tank" was to try to ascertain where the Society could possibly start sourcing some form of revenue.

With this in mind, the Executive asked Colin Webster if he would be available to sit on the Executive. Colin's financial back ground together with him being a committee member of SASCOC, we believe we will be able to structure, regulate and formalise all forms of coaching and facility usage within the Society. We hope to have this operational in the New Year.

I am also happy to report that the Society house, the groundsman's old house, now has paying tenants and that the money recovered from that contributes to our new communication strategy.

The following is a schedule of attendance at the Executive Meetings

Mr. G. Bryant	9 out of 11 meetings
Mr. N. Darroch	9 out of 11 meetings
Mr. R. Wise	8 out of 11 meetings
Mr. R. Cooper	5 out of 5 meetings
Mr. K. Webber	9 out of 11 meetings
Mr. G Berkowitz	1 out of 5 meetings
Mr. G. Taylor	8 out of 11 meetings
Mr. R. Beukes	1 out of 5 meetings
Mr. N. Irvine	8 out of 11 meetings
Mr. C. Webster	3 out of 5 meetings

I would like to place on the record my sincere appreciation to Gerald Berkowitz, Ryan Beukes and Rob Cooper who resigned from the Executive Committee earlier in the year.

SUB CLUB REPORT

It has been another hectic and full year, with numerous events and tournaments for the respective sub clubs. The majority of sub clubs continued to be very active in their respective sporting codes, and being committed and involved within the greater “Old Ed’s family”.

The range and the amount of activities in which the respective sub clubs undertake during the year and the excellence and high level at which these activities are executed are a testament to the respective sub club chairman and their respective committees. Well done to all members who are involved. As reported last year, we still have some sub clubs that do not attend the respective sub club monthly meetings – there has been improvements yet we are not where we should be for some sub clubs. This is an important facet of the Society’s make up and it is imperative that someone from your committee attends these important meetings.

Athletics: (Chairman: Greg Bortz). The club had 12 finishers at Comrades. After a 3 year break Mark Visser obtained a silver medal. Richard McEvoy came agonizingly close and missed out on a silver by 2 minutes. Simon Naylor completed his 10th run to obtain his permanent green number. One Old Eds runner, Russell Tindale completed the Two Oceans half marathon and 5 runners completed the ultra 56km. The annual 10 & 21km road race was very successful with a record entry of close to 3000 runners for both distances. The club has attracted a number of new members. Linda Icely won the Veterans/Masters trophy at the recent Sportsman of the Year after competing in the World Bi-athlon Champs in Spain.

Bowls: (Chairman: Alan Lawson). The club remains very active. On the 27th April both greens were full as the Club joined with all clubs in S.A. to raise money for CANSA & Disability Bowls. Gerald Ratzler reached the semi-finals of the Senior singles in the JBA tournament. Tony Johnstone, Jonas Funyufunyu and Mike Dunk made it through to the last 16. In the JBA Ladies pairs competition Ruth & Nadine Skuy did very well. Jonas Funyufunyu won the Jean Hubert Trophy at the recent Sportsman of the year awards.

Cricket: (Chairman: Rob Cooper). Cricket at the club continues to remain competitive and they field 5 teams in the Gauteng Sunday league and 2 in the Saturday league. The Premier XI finished last season on a high when they beat Croxley Wits University by 8 wickets to win the 40 over Gauteng league trophy. Shaylen Pillay who plays in the Premier XI won the Eric Helibronner trophy at the Sportsman of the year awards. Neil McKenzie and Quentin De Kock were both nominated for Sportsman of the Year. The Junior clinic continues to grow with +/-170 youngsters taking part in the Saturday program. They have U9, U11 and U13 teams entered in the Gauteng league.

Junior Football (Alan Norman – Academy and Anne Pratt – Little League).

There was a good turnout for the Little League – U6 to U11. The object is to teach the youngsters how to play the beautiful game and to have fun. They played in matches and tournaments with variable success. A successful prize giving was held for all the players and respective parents.

The Academy strives to produce and prepare players that can compete at the highest level, and this is a full time programme.

Happy Hour: (Chairman – Pat Cotter). Pat continues to improve the social fabric within the Society with his monthly draw and excellent guest speakers. The high calibre of speakers that Pat manages to “co-erce” into coming to speak at the Happy Hour function are outstanding and his time and efforts in doing this are greatly appreciated by all. The Sub-Club continues to raise funds towards the School bursary fund.

Hockey: (Chairman: Kevin Webber). The hockey club has continued to struggle to keep going. Kevin Webber and a number of concerned Old Edwardians have undertaken to try to resurrect the hockey club and take it back to its former glory days. Thanks to Robbie Jaspan, who resigned as Chairman, for all his efforts.

Squash: (Chairman: Dean Pike). Paul Atkinson resigned as Chairman as he was re-locating to Cape Town. Thanks to Dean Pike for stepping up to the plate and taking on the position. The Squash club continues to be competitive in the Mens, Ladies, Masters and Mixed Leagues. The Club Champs was won by Christo Potgieter, who was chosen to travel with the SA team to World Champs. The runner up was Thoboki Mohohlo. Both were nominated as Sportsman of the Year, with Christo winning the Neville Cohen trophy as runner up. The Ladies 2nd team of Glynis

Prosser, Karen Robertson, Lesley Cowan and Celeste Bortz, all long standing members of the club won the Team trophy at the Sportsman of the Year awards. They continue to run a very successful and popular Summer League.

Swimming: (Chairman: Ray Keighley). Swimming strength is in its juniors, which performed well during the year at various competitions, galas and open water swims.

Tennis: (Chairman: Derrick Botha). The tennis club is highly active with various leagues and socials. The Committee introduced a junior program and they have sponsored a number of good promising juniors to join the club. They entered 5 teams in the U14 junior league, rotating over 20 players throughout the 5 week period. The U14A team won their league, which means they move in premier league next year. The U14E team comprising of talented 8 year olds, won their league, despite their much older opposition. Many of the top juniors also played in the senior league this year, gaining invaluable experience from the seniors around them. Many of the juniors represented Old Eds in various tournaments locally and nationally throughout the year.

Wargames / Mind Sports: (Chairman: Colin Webster). The Sub-Club successfully hosted the annual summer and winter championships as well as maintaining a strong presence at most provincial and national championships. The club needs to increase their membership and will look to attracting potential members from the King Edward Schools.

Water Polo: (Chairman: Antonio Lopes) The club is extremely well administered and won the Sub-Club of the year trophy at the recent Sportsman of the Year Awards. Their annual tournament which was held at School was superb and they attracted a number of sponsors, the main one being Constantia Insurance. The water polo was excellent with Old Eds losing out to OJ Eagles in the final. A few Old Eds players were chosen for the National team which went to the World Champs in Beijing, Grant Belcher and Gareth Samuel as players and Guy Pinker as a referee.

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR 2010/ 2011

Traditionally, this function, which we believe to be the “Flagship event of the Society’s Year”, had been held annually in May. The period under review has always been the financial year of the Society, namely September to August.

It was felt that by the time the next May comes around, some of the feats are almost 18 months in the past and almost out dated.

So, it was decided to move the event to November to make it more representative of the current year. In addition, the format changed from a dinner in the Memorial Hall to a cocktail party in the Kings Tavern. Taking into consideration that times change, and we have to change with them, the less formal function was felt more appropriate.

Approximately 80 people attended the function, and the evening was MC’ed by Mike Dunk, who along with Anne Pratt was responsible for organizing the event. The change of timing and the event itself proved successful, and this seems to be the way forward for the present.

The winners were;

Sportsman of the Year was Grant Belcher, Gareth Samuel & Guy Pinker from Water Polo with Christo Potgieter from squash as the runner up

Sheila Webster Trophy for the best junior went to Cameron Peterson from tennis.

Tom Webster Trophy for the best junior male was awarded to Brandon Wysoke from bowls

The Eric Heilbronner Trophy for the most outstanding schoolboy playing sport for the Society was Shaylen Pillay from cricket.

Best Performance by a Master or Veteran was won by Linda Icely from Athletics

The Team Trophy went to the Ladies 2nd League squash team

The Jean Hubert Trophy for Sportsmanship was awarded to Jonas Funyufunyu from bowls.

The Steve and Linda Jaspán Trophy for the Sub club of the Year went to Water Polo.

The Chairman's Award was awarded to Anne Pratt

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike Dunk and Anne Pratt – without your input and dedication this event would not be what it is and we recognise the importance of keeping this great tradition alive and current for today's generation. I look forward to reporting back next year on an even more successful event

MEMBERSHIP

	2011	2010
Total members brought f/ward	1369	1376
Admissions	139	111
Resignations	(21)	(17)
Deaths	(10)	(9)
Lapsed	(153)	(92)
Total membership 31 August	1324	1369

The Executive Committee regrets to record the deaths of the following members during the above period.

Mrs. S.A. Webster	D.E. Goffinet	J.R. Smuts	C.D. Colclough
Mrs. E. Holliday	P.L. Winslow	G.W. Alexander	I. Lissoos
Mrs. B.T. Adams	I. Watts		

Senior Life Memberships were awarded to the following members for the period September 2010 to August 2011.

M.D. Bain Venn	R.H. Bain Venn	R Barrell	J.W. Begbie
D.R. Kneebone	J.S. Gardner	C.S. Coombes (Mrs.)	I.A. Webber
A.C. Hicks	R.W. Hurter	T.H. Kohler	

DEVELOPMENT

As per various submissions in the new society e-Mag, dedicated newsletter of August 2011 and subsequent SGM memoranda, the sub-committee of the Executive has continued negotiation with the Developer and relevant parties, including Virgin Active, in connection with the proposed redevelopment.

On the proposed layout a major change has been made, namely the introduction of a world standard water-based artificial astroturf field in lieu of the Sullivan Oval. The reasons behind this change are highlighted in the various items of correspondence sent to members and articulated during the development presentation at the SGM held in November 2011. The current focus of negotiations with Virgin Active by us and the Developer is the financing of

the parkade. We are happy to report that finally Virgin Active has brought the relevant high-level directors from their board to the negotiation table, including their head of development and finance.

Unfortunately, these negotiations have been delayed for over four months due to these members of Virgin Active and the MD being heavily involved in a private equity deal. We are pushing to continue these negotiations as soon as possible in order to advance the proposal into the detailed development stage with all affected sub-club input before presenting such plans and associated agreements, sureties and guarantees to the members at a future general meeting.

VIRGIN ACTIVE

As reported last year we strive for an open, transparent, and cooperative relationship with Virgin Active South Africa (VA) and in particular with its CEO, Ross Faragher – Thomas. For most parts, we seem to achieve this however in certain spheres and in regard to the critical question of the clubhouse, this is not the case. We are making good progress and with the new envisaged development it has certainly brought both parties closer together.

The state and condition of numerous parts of the Society remain a grave concern for health and safety and we have made this point very clear to Virgin Active head office.

I am very happy to report the monthly operations meeting with VA have improved greatly. We have a very good working relationship with management at VA Old Ed's. Accompanying this report you will find a VA report on tasks that have been completed for this year and what is still to be done.

As reported last year, VA has outsourced their grounds maintenance to Turftek (now Servest). Although this continues to have its teething problems, I am sure members will see that the grounds are in a much better state than years gone by.

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all of you for your continued involvement, dedication and more importantly upholding the ethos and traditions of our proud 103 year history.

I implore all of you to continue to be involved within your Society and to keep the traditions flying high of this great institution. I look forward to another exciting and successful year for the Society.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your families a well deserved break, and if you celebrate it, a Blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

Neil Darroch
Executive Chairman