



THE OLD EDWARDIAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2013 / 2014

INTRODUCTION

This report officially reflects the period from the 1st of September 2013 to the 31st of August 2014. As per previous years, I have, where necessary, added some current updates to this annual report.

This is my sixth year of being Chairman of The Old Edwardian Society and although sometimes challenging and demanding of my time, being the Chairman continues to be a very dear to me. I can categorically say that we as members should be very proud of our accomplishments and achievements as a Society on the whole. The dedication and pride in which the overwhelming majority of our members conduct themselves is exemplary.

I remind members that the Club does not have a revenue stream nor any full time employees and it would be therefore at a loss if it were not for the overwhelming dedication and time that numerous members give and commit to the Society and the respective sub clubs that they represent.

It has once again been a very busy year for the Society and the numerous sub clubs. The commitment and time that the respective sub club committees afford the Society and the members thereof are testament to the results and accolades that we, as a Society, continue to achieve year in and year out.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those respective committee members for their valuable time and effort, most of which is conducted after hours and over weekends.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the Executive Committee of the Society to which I have the honour and privilege to chair. The support and insight they have given me over the past year is truly appreciated and is duly noted. I can assure members that we have a very strong, vibrant and enthusiastic committee, a committee that is determined in delivering the best for the Society and its members. The Society is very lucky to have the dedication and calibre of such committed people.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Pratt for all her help and support throughout the year. For members who are not aware, Anne is an employee of Virgin Active South Africa (VASA). In my opinion and dare I say it, Anne is more of an Edwardian at heart than an employee of VASA.

There is no doubt that the numerous communication channels that the Society broadcasts to is to a high standard and the envy of clubs throughout South Africa. This is testament to the Society's communication officer, Mike Dunk. Mike continues to provide an excellent service to the Club and I can quite comfortably say that no other club in this region gets the press exposure that we do.

This year marks the end of the tenure of Mr Tutty Faber as President of the Society. It has been an absolute honour and pleasure working with Mr. Faber over the past three years. The enthusiasm, vigor and dedication in which he has demonstrated towards the “office” are testament to the character of this Edwardian stalwart – I thank you sincerely.

THE SCHOOLS

Both Schools continue to deliver to the highest caliber. The results and achievements on all fronts, be it, academic, cultural or sporting is truly incredible and both Headmasters of the high and prep school, Mr Lovatt and Mr Shead respectively, (and their entire staff), should be highly commended.

My personal goal is to build better bonds between both Schools and the Society. This still remains high on my agenda and although slight progress was made this year, it is still not at the level that the Executive and I would like it to be. The Society cannot exist without our special bond and it is something that needs more attention and time spent on it.

We continue to have a good relationship with the School in sharing facilities with them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the continued use of their numerous facilities that we make use of.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I am happy to report that more objectives that were set out in our “think tank” some time back were accomplished during this current period. More is still to be achieved, and we shall continue to pursue these in the coming year.

In conjunction with Virgin Active, one of the main objectives of this forthcoming year is to formalise our “arrangements” with the numerous coaches that operate within the Society. We recognise that the current coaches, in the numerous disciplines, within the Society, contribute a vast amount to the Society; these “arrangements” need to be structured and formalised for everyone’s best interests.

Unfortunately, the Executive also has to deal with less fulfilling and productive matters of the running of the Society. We strive to have a Society that abides to our constitution and the respective sporting codes constitutions that we participate in and are affiliated too. Unfortunately, like in the past, the Executive were forced to implement disciplinary measures on a very small minority of members. As you can imagine, such matters take precious time and energy. Once again I implore all members to think of the Society first before acting or doing something that could do harm to the Society.

The following is a schedule of attendance at the Executive Meetings;

Mr. J. Faber	11 out of 11 meetings
Mr. N. Darroch	11 out of 11 meetings
Mr. K. Webber	10 out of 11 meetings
Mr. G. Taylor	7 out of 11 meetings
Mr. N. Irvine	8 out of 11 meetings
Mr. C. Webster	9 out of 11 meetings
Mr. K. Coster	7 out of 11 meetings

SUB CLUB REPORT

It has been another successful and busy year for the respective sub clubs of the Society. The sub clubs continued to be active in their numerous and respective sporting codes and affiliations. Teams participated in many events and tournaments throughout South Africa. Most important to the participation in these events, is the commitment and spirit in which the members took part and this is testament to our great Club.

The range and the amount of activities in which the respective sub clubs undertook during the year and the excellence and high level at which these activities are executed, are a testament to the respective sub club chairmen and their committees.

I am pleased to report that we now have our “absent” boat club represented at the bi-monthly sub club meetings and that the respective sub club would seem to be growing in membership and adhering to Society rules and obligations. This point has been outstanding for some time and it pleases me to report that we have made headway on this issue.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2013/ 2014

Once again, the Sportsperson of the Year function was a huge success, the 42nd edition of the event gave a “snapshot” of how successful a Club we are. It is also a great way to see and experience, first-hand, the spirit and traditions of our great Society.

The winners were;

- **Sportsman of the Year** was awarded to Stephen Cook from cricket.
- **The runner up Neville Cohen Trophy** went to Gus Pinker and Dion Willis from water polo.
- **Sheila Webster Trophy for the best junior female** went to Faye Keighley from swimming.
- **Tom Webster Trophy for the best junior male** was awarded to Cameron Peterson from tennis.
- **The Eric Heilbronner Trophy for the most outstanding schoolboy playing sport for the Society** was Grant Roelofsen from cricket.
- **Best Performance by a Master or Veteran** was won by Linda Icely from athletics.
- **The Team Trophy** went to the cricket premier league 1XI.
- **The Jean Hubert Trophy for Sportsmanship** was won by Tim Johnston from squash.
- **The Steve and Linda Jaspán Trophy for the sub club of the Year** went to water polo.
- **The Chairman’s Award** was awarded to Kevin Webber the past chairman of the Hockey.

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 for current and future generations to come.

MEMBERSHIP – (period September 2013 to August 2014)

Category	2014	2013	2012
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Total members brought f/ward	1134	1110	1189
Admissions	229	140	154
Resignations	(25)	(34)	(39)
Deaths	(8)	(4)	(1)
Lapsed	(80)	(78)	(193)
Total membership 31 August	1250	1134	1110

DECEASED MEMBERS – (period September 2013 to August 2014)

The Executive Committee regrets to record the deaths of the following members during the above period. We would like to take this opportunity to wish their loved ones our deepest sympathy.

B. Boyer;
D.E. Collen
J Daynes
M. Fevrier
D.C. Gers
B. Klerck (Mrs.)
B. Pelkowitz
R Poole

SENOIR LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

These were awarded to the following members for the period September 2013 to August 2014.

D.B. Kneebone
V.M. McLaren
A. Greig
B. Down
K.J. Trotter

DEVELOPMENT

As members can appreciate, the proposed new development of Society land and the facilities thereof is a mammoth task and a very sensitive issue for all members and for future generations to come.

As I have mentioned in my reports in previous years and in the numerous communications to members, via the development newsletters – nothing will happen at the Society without the consent of its membership.

I would implore members not to speculate or base concerns on third hand information. This has been the case in the past year. The development sub committee will continue to meet directly with members and discuss concerns or issues they may have.

Following the conceptual work done last year by the Project Architects, the focus of work during 2014 was to develop the plans to a more detailed stage.

This involved the input from a full quota of built environment professionals that are to form the Developer's full project team. Nevertheless, before the considerable detailed work could commence the overall site plan need approval in principle from the respective sub clubs. This was done at the March sub club Chairmen's meeting where

the site plan was presented along with several of the individual buildings plans. The Developer and his key team members were on hand to respond to the sub club Chairmen's questions and concerns raised. At the end of the meeting, the site plan was approved in principle to enable the professional team to take the design to council submission stage and to enable a detailed cost plan to be done for the works.

At the meeting, the Project Manager tabled the ideal timeline of events leading up the construction start. As the next few months of detailed design progressed, it became evident that due to the complexity of certain areas and council conditional requirements a number of redesign iterations would be required. This caused a delay on the ideal timeline present to the sub club Chairmen and noted in the March Newsletter.

However, in July the sub club Chairmen had the full detailed plans presented to them. The details of which and images thereof were included in the July newsletter to all members.

At this point, a considerable amount of input from the project design professionals enabled the Quantity Surveyor to develop the detailed cost plan of the works for the Society. In conjunction with the Society work, a similar process occurred on the residential development to feed into the overall scheme feasibility.

This is the first detailed feasibility done on an approved in principle scheme with collective professional input. We understand the current cost of the Society improvements is over R100 million – a marked increase from the original estimate of R65 million in 2008. Yet the initial feedback the Development Sub-committee (DSC) have from the Developer is that he and his investors are comfortable with the scope of the Society works, yet they have asked us to work with them to shorten the overall construction timeline and effect necessary savings in that manner and not look at reducing the scope or cost of the works. The DSC are in discussion with the Developer to come to what could be a possible solution, at which time all sub clubs and members shall be informed.

At this point, the revised timeline to construction start and period of construction plus sequencing can be presented. There is much to do prior to construction start and the Executive through the DSC are engaging legal and financial experts to draft the various agreements and future operational plans required.

I would personally like to thank Kevin Webber, chairman of the Development Sub-committee, for the professional manner in the way he conducts himself towards this complex, and as stated above, mammoth task. The Society is truly indebted to him for all the hours and free professional time and services he gives to the Society.

VIRGIN ACTIVE

Our relationship with Virgin Active South Africa continues to be an open, transparent, and cooperative one and as stated in previous reports I would like to think it is the best it has ever been.

We meet with the VA Club Manager, Hashem Noormahomed, and his team on a monthly basis. The monthly operations meetings ensure that numerous facilities within the Society seek the attention they need – there are however lots more to be done and it is something that we continue to discuss and bring to VA's attention.

There is no doubt that the state and condition of numerous parts of the Society remain a grave concern. The health and safety of our members and their respective guests are high on the Executive's agenda; we continue to make this point very clear to the management and executive of VASA.

On a positive note, I am happy to report that the clubhouse did get some much-needed attention this year. The clubhouse roof was repaired and dare I say it, "patched- up" as best as possible. This allowed VA and our caterers to do some much needed ascetics changes within the clubhouse. In saying all of this, it would be irresponsible of me not to point out that certain parts of the club house remain condemned due to the state and risk it poses to members and their visitors.

I would also like to place on record the Society's most sincere condolences to VASA's Managing Director, Ross Faragher-Thomas, whose wife passed away a short while ago. Our thoughts and prayers go out to himself and his daughter.

CONCLUSION

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

I implore all of you to continue to be involved within your Society and to foster the relationship with our two great feeder and founding Schools. It is imperative that we keep the traditions and ethos alive of these great institutions.

I look forward to another exciting and successful year ahead.

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.

Strenue !

Yours sincerely

Neil Darroch
Executive Chairman