

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Executive Committee and members, it gives me great pleasure to present the President's annual report for the year ending 31st August 2012.

The Old Edwardian Society has enjoyed another happy and memorable year which, as the figurehead and hopefully the uniting force that cements the various sub-clubs together that enables the Society to be prominent particularly in the sporting arenas, I have to report as follows.

Pride of place must be afforded the Sub-Club of the Year, Hockey, which is a Phoenix arising from a difficult past, mostly led by the McDade family who organised and played their hearts out along with so many that they recruited to come back and enjoy their sport here. It was most appropriate in an Olympic year that the Olympian Thornton McDade was crowned as Old Edwardian Sportsman of the Year. He fulfilled the terms of the prestigious award fully by his devotion to the hockey section in every aspect. The first team achieved an overwhelming 100% winning record. The third team prevailed over the 2nd team and won the 3rd league and were promoted to replace the first team who in turn were rewarded for their prowess by being promoted to the premier league bypassing the first league. We look forward in keen anticipation to next season.

The Squash section had a very satisfactory season and besides winning the 1st League the sub-club won both the Callaghan Trophy for the Club of the Year and the Most Improved Club not to mention a number of lower leagues won. Which is a magnificent effort. The Committee is to be congratulated for organising competitive squash throughout the year. The section boasts the Old Edwardian Master in the person of Linda Shannon.

The cricket section prevailed in the most important Gauteng league trophy when they won the premier league's time competition. There were league wins for the Sunday 1 side and one of the Saturday 2 sides. The playing strength continues to grow. The section does its share of developing the game with Ann Pratt's junior clinic. The sub-club is to be praised for introducing a Sunday 7 side that aims to nurture and mature graduates from the junior clinic into senior league cricket. The section owes much to Jimmy Cook for his assistance. Following the resignation of the previous chairman the section is getting down to the necessary changes in structures and other issues.

The water polo sub-club continues to grow its playing strength in both numbers and skills. Other than a victory in the knockout Hancock Cup the league sides finished in the middle of their logs. Once again the National Club Championship was hosted both in 2011 and 2012. Both tournaments yielded silver medals to the O.E. players. I was pleased that some of the 2012's games took place at our pool. OE Water Polo was also represented at the Olympic Games when World Waterpolo Association member Guy Pinker refereed a number of games.

Tennis at Old Edwardians is currently enjoyed by 191 members which includes 38 student and junior members. The committee is to be congratulated for the revival of interest amongst the younger members who are achieving success in the Under 14 league and several are rated in the top 30 nationally. During the year the Seniors fielded 20 league teams of which 3 won their sections and 9 were runners up. It must be mentioned that Julie Mansour and Brendan Zackey have taken the Veterans by storm rising to be both rated in the top 10 nationally.

The bowling rinks have been busy not only with Society activities, but the Johannesburg Bowling Association making extensive use of our greens because of their quality and our facilities. The men's 1st side finished third in their league. Individually Brandon Wysoke, a Preparatory School boy was selected to represent Gauteng as the skip in the national Under 19 Inter-District Tournament. Not to be outdone, Jonas Funyufunyu continues to perform excellently reaching the quarter-finals of the provincial Senior Singles Tournament and was selected to represent the province at the S.A. Singles Championship.

The Athletics sub-club organised, together with the Morningside Country Club which secured HFPA as sponsors, a most successful 21kms run/10kms run or walk. The weather was not kind to them, however almost 2500 athletes started the races. There was a heartening turnout of Old Edwardian members to assist in the organization and supervision. Of course the big one is Comrades where 13, including 4 novices, O.E. members finished. The leading O.E. member was Jamie Clark who qualified for a silver medal with a time of 7hrs 13minutes. 2nd O.E. place was claimed by novice Tim Johnson. The members did not confine their attentions to Comrades, and participated in various road races throughout the year.

The swimmers participated well in various competitions, both galas and open water swims. The membership grows and the section was delighted when Cecile Olivier was awarded the Sheila Webster Trophy.

The Wargames and Mind Sports section was active throughout the year and with all the new recruits the overall standard of play by the members is continuously improving. So much so that the committee is confident that they will soon occupy the pre-eminent position nationally. As it is Jason van Wyngaard finished 3rd in the 15th World Mind Sports Championship as a novice let down at the start by nerves. It is noteworthy that Old Edwardians claimed all the medals at the recent Mpumalanga Tournament having finished 2nd in the Gauteng Championships.

There is a new impetus in the Junior Football section because of the engagement of Simba Marumo an ex professional player and Supersport presenter as Head Coach. Under his guidance the coaching has attained a far higher standard. As a by product the young players are far more motivated and enjoy their sport so much more. The Society fields teams in the Little league from Under 6 to Under 12 with an Under 15 development team.

So much for the more active members of the Society. I'm indebted to my predecessor Geoff Bryant for officiating while I was not able to recently. I continue to admire the work that Pat and Ting Cotter do, particularly in respect of the Happy Hour Club, and especially the excellent and entertaining speakers that Pat arranges for the 3rd Friday of the month, except December. His ability to persuade so many interesting people to address us never fails to amaze me. We are all indebted to Mike Dunk who does such a superb job of communications to the members and the general public. My thanks go to those sub-clubs that have organized a Quiz Evening. The two that I attended were fun and a jolly good "Club occasion". I would have preferred being asked about music that was composed a lot longer ago than the tunes featured, and films of that same period. I would like to congratulate Travis White for his handling of those two quizzes. I salute Anne Pratt for the work she does for the society and I acknowledge with gratitude the work that the Executive Committee does under the able chairmanship of Neil Darrock. I pay tribute to Kevin Webber and the development committee for their thoughts, time and patience in furthering the proposed redevelopment of the Club. I am aware that the proposed changes do not meet with universal approval. The people I have had discussions with, I find negative. They fail to come up with a feasible alternative that they can present to me or the Executive Committee. I sincerely hope that the extraordinary meeting of members to be convened when the sub-club approved proposed redevelopment will be discussed and voted on yields a decision that when acted on satisfies the members, attracts large numbers of new members, and puts the Society on a firm course to retain our status and facilities.

That concludes my report.

Tutty Faber