

The Hurst Johnian Club

(formed 1877)

Officers during the Year 2005-2006

President	T.Moulton South Lodge, Holly Road Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9JJ Tel:01843 852445
Vice President	J R M Hall Norwood Grange Norwood Lane Iver Buckinghamshire SL0 0EW
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Editor of the Newsletter	G.L.Hill Hedgehogs, 9 Park Close Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex BN6 9XA

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The Hon.Secretary and R.J.Ebdon

Club Administrator

Mrs Elizabeth Watson

Editorial

It was recently brought home to me that September was the sixtieth anniversary of my arrival at Hurst as a pupil. (Did I hear: "It's about time he handed over the Editorship?" You may be right!)

Much water has passed under the bridge since then, and as I walked round Hurst somewhat nostalgically on a recent visit, I began to think in comparative terms. What happened to the peacocks which used to roam around the school and in the springtime woke us up at about 5.30am with their raucous cries? How different the excellent cafeteria meals (we ate sedately by houses)... with a choice too! ... from the there-it-is-take-it-or-leave-it fare we were offered. (Come to think of it, I don't think we were allowed to leave it!) Now all and sundry carry their mobile phones; then a signed housemaster's leave was required to ring home, and then only in an emergency.

How we wrestled with studs and stiff collars, looking after them carefully as clothes were still rationed under a coupons system; I recall a plea for coupons so that a new set of shirts could be bought for the first XV.

How warm and cosy are those small dormitories and bedsitters compared with large draughty rooms with about two dozen beds, and with windows open whatever the weather. To this day I never do up the top button of my pyjama jacket, as it was not allowed in my house! On hauling oneself out of bed it was into a cold shower supervised by a sleepy prefect, before finding one's face flannel frozen stiff. I doubt if pupils would stand for it now ... mothers certainly would not!

The sad death of Brodie Maitland (QV) brought back another more painful memory. In those far off days we were not allowed to venture very far without specific permission, and "places of public entertainment" were taboo (Ascension Day after the climb up Danny was a rare exception). A few friends and I risked it one Sunday and slipped off to the Orion Cinema in Hassocks to see the Charles Laughton version of *Mutiny on the Bounty*. It was not a mutiny on our part ... just a mischievous change from the usual. Unfortunately, we were "shopped", summoned to see Brodie (then Captain of the School) and duly caned by him. That hurt, but not as much as the fact that we were reported by another school prefect who was at the cinema; I wonder if he had permission to be there?

It is only two generations ago, and yet those boys were chastised by more senior boys. We never thought ill of those prefects, but it is inconceivable today. I wonder who was the last person to suffer such punishment at Hurst, and when it was. I cannot remember who my fellow delinquents were, but I do remember that the film was very good; we thought the pain was worth it! Maybe my fellow sufferers will own up!

But some things do not change. Most of us were very happy at school, as I am sure the pupils of today are in the more enlightened regime of the early twenty-first century.

George Hill

Golf

OHJGS Annual Dinner and AGM – 18th November 2005

This year we held the AGM at the well known London Victoria eatery of Boisdales. In a good humoured rowdy evening reminiscent of school days, we enjoyed the company of Richard Kelly, Paul Ruddlesdin, Derrick Fulcher, Ian Pilcher, Chunky Goulstone, Simon Clapham, Rob McCowen, Keith Jenkin, Alan Buttifant, Ian Clarke, Graham Negus, James Emmett, Simon Tedder, Angus Stewart, Dan Burstow, Jeremy Waud, Nick Budge and Dudley Stratford from the golf society membership. We were also delighted to welcome three OJ guests in the form of Tom Watters, Julian Page and regular at this event, Malcolm Fortune.

Many good tales were exchanged over dinner including a fine rendition from old sage Ian Pilcher!

The boys were clearly looking forward to the evening, so much so, that our youngest attendee, Simon Tedder, arrived a week early for the dinner first time around having taken the afternoon off from University!

Jeremy Waud completed his year as Captain of the society and new Captain Nick Budge was welcomed with acclamation as was our new Vice Captain, Dan Burstow. Dudley Stratford was easily persuaded to continue his decades of sterling work as both Secretary and Treasurer for the Society!

OHJGS v Old Aldenhamians – Porters Park Golf Club – 27th October 2005

Our annual friendly with Aldenham School old boys was as convivial as ever. Keith Jenkin organised and managed this fixture and the team was yet again victorious, this year by a margin of 4&3.

Individual results;

Rick Holgate won by 1 hole.

Dudley Stratford won 3/2.

Angus Stewart lost.

Roger Goodacre won.

John Goodacre won by 2/1.

Paul Ruddlesdin lost by 1 hole.

John Waterfall lost.

Keith Jenkin (our secret weapon) was kept in reserve as one of the opposition failed to appear – poor show! The greatest shock of the by all accounts was the lack of port provided by the losers at the post match dinner – when will they learn?

Grafton Morish Finals – 28th-30th September - Norfolk

Both courses were as always, fantastic challenges of golf. Brancaster was as scenic as ever and Hunstanton was in absolutely immaculate condition. After our warm up rounds on both courses we faced the predictably tough opposition of Coventry for our first round encounter at Brancaster.

Our line up under the captaincy of Richard Kelly was;

Pair 1: Richard Kelly and Simon Tedder

Pair 2: Jeremy Waud and Dan Burstow

Pair 3: Russell Ogden and Mark Baldock

The opposition was made up of County players of differing vintages with Kelly and Tedder putting up a valiant fight against a pair of +1 handicap golfers to eventually lose by a small margin. Burstow and Waud delivered what was possibly their best ever performance, quite literally putting the disgruntled opposition off the course to record a 2&1 win. Ogden and Baldock certainly had their chances but failed to get ahead of a very steady anchor pair, thus returning a 2 games to one loss for us. We all played in the Saturday morning plate competition when we were a little short on sleep from the rigours of the night before – our performance was average only!

On balance for the competition there was no disgrace at all for our team and we hope to be able to again qualify next year and take a bigger touring party with us.

Autumn Meeting at RCPGC Deal and Princes GC Sandwich 16th-18th September

We enjoyed a terrific weekend's golf at Princes Golf club in Sandwich and Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club in Deal. For the day one pre lunch warm up over the tricky 9 holes of the Himalayas course at Princes, Dan Burstow recorded a very impressive 18 points to win this competition in a howling gale! Graham Negus and Derick Fulcher were hot on his heels with 16 points each. After lunch we played the eighteen hole combination of the Shore and Dunes courses. With the wind and occasional rain making this a very tough challenge indeed, it was perhaps unsurprising that some of the lower handicap players came through with the stronger results. Derick Fulcher and Dan Burstow were in the prizes again taking second and third places respectively with 33 points each and the winner was Jeremy Waud with an uncharacteristically strong result amassing 37 points with no lost balls!

On the Saturday we enjoyed two rounds at Royal Cinque Ports (a course with a rich history that has twice hosted the Open Championships). The top score of 36 was recorded by Steven Dyble (guest) and the society winner with an excellent 35 points was Russell Ogden playing off a handicap of 5. Dan Burstow was second with 34 (boring!) and Dudley Stratford with 31 points comfortably took the veterans prize along with much ribbing during the evening prize giving!

The afternoon foursomes were won by Dudley Stratford and Angus Stewart on 35 points, with Graham Negus and his guest Kevin Hagan (the Marquis or Amarone – more about that later) in second place.

This fantastic weekend was attended by 19 golfers including Mark Darby for the first time and local member Colin Brown for the first time in years. Laurie Henwood stayed for the whole weekend and performed an exemplary administrative role for the weekend which was appreciated by all the players.

We enjoyed two fantastic evening meals, one at The Bell Hotel where we were staying and the second at The George and Dragon in Sandwich where we were delighted to welcome the President of the OJ Club, Tom Moulton, for dinner.

All in all the weekend was a great success, so much so we have re booked for next year already! – hopefully we will be able to hold the wine tasting in the comfort of the main hotel next year as Suite 1 was a little cosy for the voluminous throng of quaffers that demolished large quantities of many excellent wines over the two tasting sessions under the tutorage of Richard Kelly MW!

Sussex Schools Match, Walton Heath 4th September

This scratch competition in its second year was again held at Walton Heath, this time on a brilliant late summers' day. Last year Eastbourne failed to turn out a team and this year it was Ardingly's turn to complicate the arrangements when they failed to round up six willing and able golfers for the event!

The splendid solid silver trophy has now been provided by the generosity of Simon Chapman of Ardingly – the trophy was made in 1864, coinciding nicely with the foundation of Eastbourne College.

The results of this excellent day appear below, with Hurstpierpoint ending the day in a credible second place.

AM			Scores			Total Scores	
Old Course 10.00AM			Winner	Margin	Points		
L1	v	H1	Lancing	4&3	2	Ardingly	3
E1	v	H2	Eastbourne	2&1	2	Hurstpierpoint	4
E2	v	L2	Eastbourne	6&4	2	Eastbourne	4
L3	H3	E3	HvL Hurst	2&1	2	Lancing	4
			HvE Hurst	4&3	2		
			LvE Lancing	2&1	2	AM Total	12
PM			Scores			Total Scores	
New Course PM			Winner	Margin	Points		
L1	v	H2	Hurst	4&3	2	Ardingly	3
H1	v	E3	Eastbourne	6&5	2	Hurstpierpoint	4
L3	v	E2	Lancing	6&4	2	Eastbourne	5
L2	H3	E1	HvL Halved		1 + 1	Lancing	3
			HvE Halved		1 + 1		
			LvE Eastbourne	2 &1	2	PM Total	12
Win = 2 points							
Draw = 1 point							
			Ranking For The Day			Points	
			1st Eastbourne			9	
			2nd Hurstpierpoint			8	
			3rd Lancing			7	
			4th Ardingly			3	

Our teams were, (A) Jeremy Waud with Dan Burstow, (B) Paul Turrell with Peter Masters and finally our star and top scoring pair of (C) Rick Holgate and Russell Ogden.

Match v Old Canfordians at Blackmoor 21st August

Our team of Nick Budge and Jeremy Waud, Dudley Stratford and Roger Goodacre together with Derek Pitt and Julian Knott took on the Old Canfordians for our annual friendly fixture at Blackmoor Golf Club in Hampshire. In the morning four ball better ball only the team of Stratford and Goodacre returned a win and rain stopped play together with the opportunity of correcting the score line at lunchtime!

29th July - Summer Meeting - Royal Ashdown Forest Golf Club.

We had a good turn out with 19 golfers plus Ex-President, Laurie Henwood joining us for lunch. We were delighted to welcome Chris Gray from the school as the master in charge of golf. We were also delighted to host Ross Kennedy who won his place as the winner of the school golf competition amongst the pupils. As you will see from the attached photos a great time was had by all and after a gruelling 36 hole hike around this beautiful hilly links, top honours went to Ed Welch with 43 points in the singles, closely followed by Chris Gray and Stephen Waud. Roger Goodacre was apparently old enough to win the veterans tankard and Dan Burstow picked up the scratch prize. The afternoon foursomes (Stratford Tazzers) were won by Jeremy Waud and Chris Gray, closely pursued by Patrick Mc Gahan and his guest, David Yates.

15th July - Friendly Outing at The RAC Golf and Country Club.

Graham Negus kindly organised his annual outing to the RAC where the drinking is always of a higher calibre than the golf - clearly an enjoyable day was had by all who can remember it!

8th & 9th July - The Mellin Salver

For this prestigious over 55's, over 65's and over 75's tournament we fielded a strong selection of our 'senior' golfers under the competitive captaincy of Rick Holgate (is he really old enough?) - In the first round of the youngster's competition we lost 2.5 to .5 in or match against Cranleigh - we fielded Rob Mc Cowen, Rick Holgate, Willie Welch, Derrick Fulcher, Jonathan Baldwin and David Lenton. In the plate competition we lost to Oundle, with David Lenton and Rick Holgate delivering our only point

In the over 65's category our team of Dudley Stratford, Tom Whitaker, Derek Pitt and Keith Jenkin sadly failed to qualify for the main event. In the over 75's, Lionel Balfour-Lynn was paired with Sir Derek Day qualified and lost in the semi-finals to Downside.

It is very sad to note that in this match Jonathan Baldwin played his last game for the society before his sudden death at far too young an age at the beginning of August. Jonathan was a good supporter of the society for many years and even though he lived in the north of England, he often travelled south to play in our events including the Halford Hewitt where he represented us with his usual gritty determination.

22nd June - OHJGS Inaugural Senior meeting

This new fixture was kindly organised by Derrick Fulcher for our senior members (old?) and no match report has been filed - it is assumed that they had a great time and although not too much alcohol was consumed, they don't seem to be able to recall the day! - we are sure they had a great time and doubtless have decided that several of them should be reconsidered for the Halford Hewitt based in their performances!

Hockey

19th March 2006 2pm Hurst XI v OJs at Home

If you are interested in playing for the OJs please contact Mike Harrison on harmi78@hotmail.com

The following report about the Hockey match at Etheldreda has been received from Claire Tibbott (Shield 2004)

I was really surprised with how we played and the skills we still had compared to the present 1st team. I can't remember who got the first goal but it was shortly followed with one from the opposite team. We stayed 1 - 1 for most of the first half until 5 minutes before half time when they poked one in! Up until then the ball had us running back and forth up the pitch with I'd say equal amounts of time in each team's D. We thought we'd be well and truly slaughtered by the current 1st team which turned out to be not the case at all. We kept them working for possession as much as they did for us. The 2nd half, they converted 3 or 4 of their short corners to leave the score 5 -1 It was a good match enjoyed by all so I'm hoping that word will spread that it was in fact fun and more girls will be more enthusiastic to step forward next year.

Once again, on the day some girls let me down and we were lucky to get a team together but we did so that's all that matters.

LAWN TENNIS

Following the success of the OJ Tennis Team against the College last year, we will be looking for a return match when no doubt the College will be looking to avenge their defeat. Consequently we are looking for more Old Boys and Girls to form Mens, Ladies, Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles teams. All standards are welcome.

Please contact Roger Vernon on rvernon@freeuk.com

or Peach Trees, 49 Chaddesley Glen, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset BH13 7PB.

Tel: 01202-709527

Mobile: 07961-550511

Rugby

Sadly the OHJRFC has been struggling to maintain its fixture commitments due to lack of player availability and managerial support. Any persons showing interest on such matters to contact either Mark Porter (07870 555764) or Jeremy Carswell (07768 267994) for more details. The club still boasts a suitable fixture list for the remainder of the season, home pitch and facilities in Reigate, and recently acquired new kit.

Cricket Week 2005

Although an unbeaten run (which stretched back to 2002) came to an end, this was a successful and enjoyable week. It got off to a cracking start with the OHJCC overwhelming the Eton Ramblers and winning by 149 runs. During the course of the match Dick Smart took his 400th cricket week wicket – not quite so many games in the week these days but he's still coming up the hill! The OHJs declared at 243 for 6, with Mike Harrison scoring 83, Stuart Hall 39 n.o., and Nick Banfield 38 with Simon Warrender joining the Duck Club after a 24 minute vigil. Eton Ramblers were then dismissed for 94 with Mark Ellis taking 3 for 27, Smart 2 for 26 and Roger Hickman 2 for 11.

On Sunday Romany batted first and put together a total of 195. The OHJs did not find the batting so easy but managed to hang for a draw, being 179 for 9 at the close with Patrick McGahan undefeated on 29. Warrender scored 37.

On Monday, when we were due to entertain the Sussex Martlets, heavy rain set in at 9.45 am and by midday it was clear that the ground was far too wet. The game was abandoned before lunch, and continued downpours in the afternoon sadly confirmed that this was the correct decision.

On Tuesday the Old Rossallians batted first. Tight bowling on a damp wicket enabled the OHJs to dismiss the ORs fairly cheaply for 119, despite shelling 6 catches. Chris Viggor (captain of the College XI this summer) took 2 for 17, despite his claims to only be a "net bowler", and Rikki Hill and Bill Baxter each took 2 for 6. After the loss of two quick wickets the OHJs had won the match by 5.45 pm with John Goodacre contributing 62. Harry McGahan managed to fail in his execution of his captain's instructions by joining the Duck Club after being sent in to hit the winning runs. In the evening we were all kindly entertained to drinks by the Headmaster, Mr. Tim Manly, in his garden. This was a splendid occasion and the Headmaster's enthusiasm for the Hurst Johnian Club and its activities is greatly welcomed.

On Wednesday we enjoyed an excellent win over the Cryptics with just 4 overs to spare. Batting first the OHJs reached a total of 227 with Banfield scoring 45 and Viggor 49 and Tim Firth (Deputy Head of the College) eagerly running himself out to join the Duck Club. The Cryptics were then dismissed for 209 with Tim Firth making amends by taking 4 wickets for 56.

On Thursday a large score of 297 for 6 declared by the Stoics, batting first, meant that the OHJs always faced an uphill task. Unfortunately the Stoics bowling also proved to be too strong and the match ended by 6.00 pm with the OHJ score standing at 129. Honour was saved by a last wicket stand of 35 between John Saunders (20 n.o.) and Jeremy Rawlins (27). Chris Viggor scored 25. Patrick McGahan proved the most

successful OHJ bowler with 2 for 14. This substantial defeat by 168 runs was disappointing after the earlier successes, and brought to an end the unbeaten run alluded to earlier. This had lasted for 21 matches.

On Friday the South Wales Hunt batted first and eventually declared at 271 for 6. Michael Harrison took 3 wickets for 56 and Patrick McGahan 3 for 54. For the second day running therefore the OHJ batsmen found themselves having to chase a rather large total. They did their best but did not help themselves with two unfortunate run outs. Nevertheless there was a good display of hitting by Michael Harrison who scored 50 and then a good partnership for the 8th wicket between Patrick McGahan, who scored 46 (to the amazement of all spectators!), and Stuart Hall. Paul Hess, the College Chaplain, who is leaving Hurst to take up a post at Eton, seized his only chance to join the Duck Club. The OHJs were finally all out for 216 thus leaving the Hunt winners by 55 runs.

On Saturday we faced the Buccaneers. The OHJs began well but there was a middle order batting collapse and it took a 10th wicket partnership of 42 between Rupert Hill and Dick Smart to produce the respectable total of 228. Jonathan Pilgrim contributed 61 to this total and Stuart Maddock (also on the Hurst staff, but not quite so eager about the Duck Club as his colleagues) made 65. Rory Baxter, who batted in the manner one would expect from the son of the Duck Club President, failed to trouble the scorers, thus joining his father's club. The Buccaneers began well but then lost wickets and finally achieved their victory with but 3 balls to spare. Rikki Hill took 3 wickets for 64 for the OHJs.

In a year when we were slightly thinner than usual, in terms of numbers, I was enormously grateful to the many players who turned out more often than their aching limbs might have liked. Special thanks go to Stuart Hall who captained the team superbly and played in every game. I am of course grateful also to our umpires, John Maher, Hugh Thomas and Ken Ross, as well as to those who manned the scoreboard: Roger Moulton, Sam Moulton, Ken Ross, George Hill. Thanks are also due to Jenny and the catering staff, Neil and the groundstaff, Richard Wright, and the Bursar and his department. The help of all these people greatly eased the burdens of my first week in charge. Finally the biggest thank you should go to George Hill for his superb management of Cricket Week between 1973 and 2004, and for his amazing ability to be extremely helpful to the new manager without ever interfering.

The following played in the cricket week:

Stuart Hall (capt), Lee Atkins, Nick Banfield, Bill Baxter, Dan Burstow, Mark Ellis, Tim Firth, John Goodacre, Mike Harrison, Paul Hess, Roger Hickman, Rikki Hill, Rupert Hill, Stuart Maddock, Harry McGahan, Max McGahan, Jeremy McGahan, Patrick McGahan, Jonathan Pilgrim, Jeremy Rawlins, Jack Riddy, Peter Riddy, John Saunders, Ben Searls, Dick Smart, Chris Viggor, Sam Voller, Tom Voller, Simon Warrender,

RESULTS

Saturday 30th July v Eton Ramblers WON BY 149 RUNS

Sunday 31 st July	v	Romany	DRAWN
Monday 1 st August	v	Sussex Martlets	ABANDONED
Tuesday 2 nd August	v	Old Rossallians	WON BY 4 WICKETS
Wednesday 3 rd August	v	Cryptics	WON BY 20 RUNS
Thursday 4 th August	v	Stoics	LOST BY 168 RUNS
Friday 5 th August	v	South Wales Hunt	LOST BY 55 RUNS
Saturday 6 th August	v	Buccaneers	LOST BY 4 WICKETS

Played 7
 Won 3
 Drawn 1
 Lost 3
 Abandoned 1

Tom Moulton

O H J Cricket Week Dates for 2006

Saturday 5 th August	v	Eton Ramblers
Sunday 6 th August	v	Romany
Monday 7 th August	v	South Wales Hunts
Tuesday 8 th August	v	Old Rossallians
Wednesday 9 th August	v	Cryptics
Thursday 10 th August	v	Stoics
Friday 11 th August	v	Sussex Martlets
Saturday 12 th August	v	Buccaneers

Manager:

Tom Moulton 07790 538971 (M) 01843 852445 (H) moulton_thomas@hotmail.com

Brewers Cup Dates for 2006

Round 1	Sunday 25 th June	Home	(v St. John's Leatherhead)
Round 2	Sunday 16 th July	Home	
Semi-Final	Sunday 6 th August	Away	
Final	Sunday 3 rd September	Campbell Park, Milton Keynes	

Manager:

Lee Atkins 07786 712118 (M) lee@pcaml.co.uk

John Goodacre would like to collect Cricket Week photos from anyone who has them so that he can create a collection for people to see.

If you have any such photos, please send them to John at:
JGoodacre@mdtlondon.co.uk

The College Cricket Tour to Australia, December 8, 2006 – January 3, 2007

Would Old Boys be interested in supporting the tour?

They can do so in the following ways:

Joining the “100 Club” (monthly draws of £100. Final draw for £1000)

Buying a tour tie at £10

Attending the “black tie” Sportsman’s Dinner – speaker Geoff Miller, on Saturday March 4th

Sponsoring tour kit (tracksuits, shirts, polos, etc)

Advertising in the tour brochure

For any of the above contact Chris Gray, Master i/c Cricket on 01444 411472 or email chris.gray@hppc.co.uk

Eagle House celebration/reunion 50 years on

Eagle House is 50 years old this year. To celebrate, there will be a reunion of all Eagle Old Boys at Hurst on Saturday 10th June 2006

The programme is yet to be finalised but the event will take place during the daytime along the established pattern of the College reunions, with the evening free for informal or ad hoc gatherings, perhaps at a local hostelry.

We are planning to re-do some of the House photos, especially the first one from June 1956. Two Eagle OJs are flying in from USA and Sierra Leone to take part so we hope the rest of you will make the effort!

The College will provide the venue and welcome. We will pay for the catering (costs for UK Eagles to be finalised but no more than £30 per adult). Wives, families and guests will be most welcome.

Further information, including details of how to apply for tickets, will be sent out in March. If you are in touch with any other Eagle old boys, who may not receive the club newsletter, please do let them know about the reunion and ask them to contact Mrs Caroline Bates at Hurst (email caroline.bates@hppc.co.uk) so that they can be added to the mailing list.

Keith Phillips
Eagle 1955-1961
Tel: 01329 289480
Email: kjp22@supanet.com

ASSOCIATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OLD PUPILS SOCIETIES

www.arops.org.uk

The 2005 Annual General Meeting was held on 15th November 2005 at St Paul's Girls' School. The President, Roy Elliott (Old Caterhamian), took the chair.

The Chairman, Roger Moulton (Old Pauline), reported on the year's activities which had included a successful Conference at Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby attended by 78 representatives from 55 societies. The Annual Dinner, held in the evening, had been well attended. He was very pleased to announce that the AROPS website was now up and running and that John Millican (Old Barnardian) was in charge of it. David Stranack had completed *Schools At War* and the book was now on sale.

The Hon. Treasurer, Tim Neale (Old Radleian), reported that the AROPS finances were in good order.

The President thanked the Committee for all its hard work over the previous year. All the committee members with the exception of Fiona Porter (City of London OGA) and Mike Thomas (Old Crosbeian), both of whom had resigned, were re-elected. Charlotte Morrison (Malvern Girls College OGA), who had been co-opted during the year, was also elected. John Kidd (Old Portmuthian) had also resigned. The President paid tribute to John's massive contribution to AROPS in his eleven years on the Committee during five of which he had been Chairman. In recognition of his service John Kidd was unanimously elected a Vice President.

Roger Moulton (Old Pauline) was re-elected as Chairman. Tim Neale (Old Radleian) and Melanie Whitfield (Old Embleian) were elected as Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary respectively. Maggy Douglas (St Albans High School OGA) was elected as Registrar.

The AGM was followed by the discussion of a number of points raised from the floor.

The launch of *Schools At War* then took place. In a short speech the Chairman welcomed all the guests and thanked the High Mistress and the Bursar of St Paul's Girls' School for their hospitality in hosting not only the AGM but also the Book Launch. He also expressed his gratitude to Sue Shilling of the St Paul's League for all her help and assistance in organising the evening. He then outlined the story behind the writing of the book. This had developed from a survey about what had happened to schools during the Second World War. The Committee was very grateful to David Stranack (Old Whitgiftian) for writing it and to Phillimore & Co for publishing it.

The Chairman then introduced David Stranack who spoke about the book and his experiences in writing it.

Finally the Chairman introduced Miss Elizabeth Diggory, the High Mistress, who spoke not only about the history and development of St Paul's Girls' School since its foundation in 1904 but also of the many great achievements of Paulinas in the past one hundred years.

The evening was rounded off by a splendid buffet supper which gave ample opportunity for both guests and representatives to meet and get to know each other.

News and Views

The College has recently begun a rolling programme of refurbishing the exterior of the buildings. In the autumn of 2005 work was carried out on renovating the chapel tower. It was decided to take advantage of this to regild the clock faces and the weather vane which over many years had become very shabby. The Club agreed to pay for the necessary work to be done. The regilding was completed by the end of October and the result is magnificent especially on a sunny day.

The Club has paid for a new public address system for the College. Normally this will be kept in the Dining Hall but it is a portable system which can be used anywhere in the school. This is a much-needed improvement for functions in the Dining Hall and was greatly appreciated at the OJ Dinner in October.

The 1980's Reunion.

This took place on Saturday 17th September 2005 and was attended by 41 OJs and several former members of staff. A further 59 OJs had been unable to come. Although the attendance was smaller than the 70's Reunion the previous June those who were there – some of whom were accompanied by their wives and families - thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After a welcome from Tim Manly, the Headmaster, and Tom Moulton, the Club President, there were tours of the school followed by group photographs and drinks in the Inner Quad. Lunch in the Dining Hall was a splendid affair. This was yet another successful reunion and all OJs are most grateful to Derick Bostridge, Director of Marketing, and Caroline Bates, his assistant, for their hard work in making such a success of this series of reunions.

Ten Years of Girls

On Saturday December 10th the College held a Dinner to celebrate ten years of co-education in the Senior School (girls first joined the Junior School in 1993). This was very well attended and, to mark the occasion, all the old girls present were given with a glass paperweight adorned with the College coat of arms. It was a highly successful evening and much credit must go to Debs Treyer-Evans for organising it. The President, Tom Moulton, attended on behalf of the Club. The champagne reception which began the evening was paid for by the Club.

SCHOOLS AT WAR

A Story of Education, Evacuation and Endurance in the Second World War
By David Stranack

This book is based on a survey carried out by The Association of Representatives of Old Pupils' Societies (AROPS) to discover what actually happened to its members' Alma Maters between 1939 and 1945. Although the original survey sought only to track the movements of schools during the war years, the request for information was responded to with such enthusiasm that a vast quantity of historical information was gathered. The AROPS Committee decided that it should be put into book form and engaged David Stranack, an Old Whitgiftian, as the author. The resultant book is a

112 page hardback with information on over 200 schools across Britain. Needless to say Hurst has an entry.

Copies, priced £14.99, may be ordered from local bookshops or direct from the publishers, Phillimore & Co Ltd whose address is as follows:

Phillimore & Co Ltd
Shopwyke Manor Barn
Chichester
West Sussex
PO 20 2BG

Email: bookshop@phillimore.co.uk

The OHJ newsletter is, of course, totally non-political! However, those of you who remember him will enjoy this letter which Nick Heath, who was a member of staff wrote to the Daily Telegraph.

Sir

In New Zealand in 1960, when I was teaching Physics, “Every New Zealand youth had the right to go to University”. This meant that a friend of mine at the University Physics Department lectured to classes of three hundred and held tutorials of eighty instead of the normal maximum of four undergraduates. In consequence the drop out rate in the first year was sixty percent. Schools, Colleges, Universities and the Inspectorate worked together to improve the system and to raise standards and by the time I returned to the UK in 1970: “Every New Zealand youth had the opportunity to EARN the right to go to University”.

Education is about teaching pupils to think and to reason so that they can deal with the problems of life. Tony Blair and his manipulative Government have entirely lost the plot. Due to the removal of discipline and respect in schools, many of the present generation of teachers have to spend most of their time trying to keep order in their classes and many of them no longer have the experience of teaching to educate their classes. This can only get worse unless the Prime Minister of the day can be introduced to the true nature of education.

Peter May (Star 58) has been elected President of the Northumberland Golf Club for the current year.

J P Windsor (Star 1934 – 36) writes to tell us of his move to Beaminster to a house with a smaller garden.

Congratulations to David Hart (Red Cross 1954 -58) on being knighted in the New Year's Honours. David became the General Secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) in 1978 and was awarded an OBE in 1988.

A liturgical duo

At one of the solemn eucharists during the 50th anniversary week of the Edington Festival of Music in the liturgy last August, two former Hurst senior choristers led the

worship. Canon Jeremy Davies (Red Cross 1964), Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral, was celebrant at the eucharist while Canon Bruce Ruddock (Fleur de Lys 1974), Precentor of Peterborough Cathedral, preached. Bruce's sermon, on Belief, is printed in full in the current issue of "Cathedral Music".

I have (rightly) been taken to task by an OJ for failing to record in the Newsletter the OBE awarded to Cecil Humphery-Smith (Red Cross 1941 - 47) some while ago. He is an expert on genealogy and in 2001 was President of the International Federation of Schools of Family History and Documentary Studies. I apologise and am happy to record this honour.

In recent correspondence with Vernon Maitland (Chevron) I noticed that he too is an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). He was awarded it in 1981 for Services to the Travel and Coach Industry. Excelsior Holidays as his family business was named operated a programme of British and Continental Holidays for their clientele mainly from within a 90 mile radius of Bournemouth. In 1981 Excelsior was the largest privately owned coach tour holiday operator in the south of England, with 55 Luxury touring coaches and Vernon as Chairman was awarded the OBE.

In the early 90's he loaned the College a coach to take a Rugger team to Ireland.

W O (Bill) Cole (Martlet) has left the Army and is living in Germany working as a golf professional.

A recent meeting of three stalwarts of the Fleur de Lys in the late 1940s!

Dr Tony Watson

Sir Bryan Cartledge

Mr Keith Jenkin

PHOTO OLD CHAPS

A cameo from Cricket Week 2005

The new Manager of the Cricket Week just about disgraced himself when England finally won the exciting second test by two runs. As the fall of the last Australian wicket came through on the radio, he was seen jumping and whirling like a veritable dervish somewhere in the region of the Manyweathers camp site! Sadly this is not recorded on film.

Obituaries

We sadly record the death of the mother of Michael and Brian Jeffery, both in Shield in the late fifties and early sixties. She was not, of course, an OJ, but was a very

regular supporter of the OHJ Cricket Week, in which her husband Denis played for many years..... and a very fine bowler he was. Our sympathy and best wishes go to the two sons.

Brodie Maitland (Chevron 1942 – 47)

Brodie died on 8th September having suffered ill health in recent years.

He was Head of School, Captain of Rugger, Athletics and Physical Training. Senior Sacristan and CSM in the JTC. The majority of his time in the National Service was in Northern Ireland, rising to the rank of Captain in the Education Corps. After obtaining a degree at Cambridge in English and Theology he studied for ordination at Cuddesdon College, Oxford. He was Assistant Chaplain at Tonbridge and Warwick Schools where he met his wife of 50 years, Jean, who was a junior mistress. After a Headship at Newton Mearns in Scotland he moved south becoming Head of Wells House in Malvern. For 16 years his last post was Head of the Lower School at Lord Mayor Treloar College, Alton which specialises in educating disabled students.

A quiet and meticulous man, he will be remembered for his fairness and morality, his modesty and his dry sense of humour which never sought the limelight.

His love of English literature, especially poetry, and the theatre, remained with him throughout his life during which he supported the Royal Shakespeare Company productions in Stratford as well as the Poetry Festival.

Brodie loved walking, whether in the Highlands of Scotland, or in South Africa's Drakensburg Mountains and, in the end, in the Malvern Hills near his home.

He is survived by his wife Jean, daughter Robin and son-in-law Marek, to all of whom we send our condolences.

Peter F A Grosch Shield 1952 – 1956

Peter died on 13th April 2005 aged 66.

After leaving Hurst, Peter did National Service in the army following which he worked briefly for Roneo Vickers. Events then took him down to the Isles of Scilly, where he learnt to dive and was there at the time The Association and Romney, part of Admiral Cloudesly Shovell's fleet which sank in 1707, were found. Peter found HMS Eagle, which was part of the same fleet, in 1970 whilst crayfishing. He was then offered a job in Barra diving for scallops and continued his wreck diving there and in the Firth of Forth area. In mid-1970s he began his career in the offshore diving industry and worked worldwide, including the North Sea, Morocco, Nigeria, Brazil, China and the Gulf gaining considerable experience in project management, construction and inspection. For 12 years he was a Diving Superintendent working on various DSVs on Bombay High and spent two years as Diving Base Manager in Mumbai. In 2001 he 'retired' but found much enjoyment acting for Aberdeen companies as a Diving Consultant completing audits on saturation and air diving systems and acting as an expert witness for legal cases. He was much respected within his industry, loved being at home at his cottage in Anstruther and there was nothing better than a game of golf. He visited Hurst in October 2003 and was horrified that Shield was now for girls! He was delighted to find that his son-in-law,

Anthony Craddock, had also gone to Hurst. He leaves behind his partner, Sue, his four children and five grandchildren.

J.M.J.LOWRY Fleur de Lys 1955-60

Jeremy Lowry died in January 2006. After leaving Hurst where he was a Prefect he attended Portsmouth College of Technology from 1960 to 1963. After a spell as Contracts Director with Homecare Textiles Ltd he joined Britannic Travel in 1990. He lived in Hove.

A.H.J.MUIRHEAD Shield 1932-36

Arthur Henry James Muirhead died in January 2006. He was a Prefect and House Captain. Between 1937 and 1940 he read Economics at Peterhouse, Cambridge. He then saw war service with the Royal Artillery reaching the rank of Captain. He subsequently joined Aluminium Ltd of Montreal becoming their Chief Financial Officer.

Rev'd J.NOURSE

The Rev'd John Nourse who died in January 2006 was a member of the staff in 1951-52. After attending St John's College, Cambridge he went to Wells Theological College and was ordained deacon in 1948 and priest in 1949. He was later Precentor of Canterbury Cathedral. From 1973 to 1983 he was Vicar of Charing and then from 1983 to 1988 was Vicar of Charing with Charing Heath and Little Chart. He was the father of C.S.Nourse (JH 1958-60 and Eagle 1960-65)

J B Baldwin Fleur de Lys 1962 – 1967

Jonathan, or Jon as he was generally known, died after a short and sudden illness in August 2005. Jon was the middle of three Baldwin brothers who were all at Hurst and in Fleur de Lys in the 1960s. After a successful career, he left Hurst for a gap year, unusual in those days, following an inspirational sermon in chapel to teach with the Bush Brotherhood in Australia. He returned to read Botany at the University of Southampton where he met Lucy, whom he was later to marry. On graduation, he joined Whitbreads as a brewer and remained with that company for the rest of his career, frequently moving around England to breweries and maltings. He was always happy to share in his typically humorous manner his great knowledge of the brewing process and its end product. Indeed, after Whitbread sold its brewing interests to Interbrew, he continued in a training role and was retained as a consultant after his retirement at the end of 2004.

Jon had a great love of golf. He was a keen member of the OHJ Golfing Society from 1988 and joined when his handicap was 17 which improved over the years to an impressive 8, during which time he won a number of cups. He was a popular member of the Golfing Society, not only for his prowess but also his enthusiasm for the game.

School friend and fellow biologist, Peter Lee Smith, writes:

“He was a great all-rounder, a talented and sociable person. We both gained a love of biology from “Jim” Peters and spent hours dissecting dogfish blood vessels,

particularly appetising before Friday's fish lunch! We also enjoyed healthy competition in cross country and athletics under Mr Pinney. Jon was also a talented hockey player and his enthusiasm survived a bad injury from catching a vigorously struck ball full in the mouth; the 1967 edition of *The Johnian* reads *Baldwin, who showed admirable spirit in recovering so smartly from so nasty an accident in the first match, was the inspiration of the Hurst attack.* Jon was always up for a challenge, a run back to School from Ditchling Beacon or Brighton Pier, and not forgetting a tour of the West Country in Martin Sherwin's pre-war Morris! Jon's commonsense and his no nonsense qualities earned him a School prefect's white tie. Jon was a loyal friend to people in all walks of life and we remained comfortably in contact for over 40 years. He had a wicked sense of humour, a great love of life and he shared his knowledge with modest enthusiasm. My abiding memory of Jon will be his face grinning a welcome over a tray of Boddingtons".

Jon had a great affection for Hurst, for the friends he made there and for the good start the School gave to his life. He was devoted to his family; his wife Lucy, and his three children Tom, Holly and Jack, of all of whom he was inordinately proud. He will be greatly missed by his family and his brothers.

J H Peters writes "Jon was one of the most reliable and enthusiastic boys ever to enter Fleur de Lys. Although he left the school in 1967, I still remember his cheerful, outgoing personality. Always ready to accept a challenge, he quickly overcame any setbacks. I clearly remember how impressed I was, when, within a few days of experiencing a frightening accident in a school hockey match in which he lost four teeth, he wrote to assure the opponent who had hit the ball into his face, that no blame was to be attached to him.

He was a highly respected school prefect and an outstanding hockey player and cross country runner. Biology became his main academic interest and he spent many voluntary hours in my laboratory carrying out practical work. I was delighted when he gained a place at Southampton University, from where he went on to pursue a successful career in brewing.

He visited us quite recently, displaying still the same cheerful open personality and clearly still the same person whose first decision on leaving school was to take up a post with the Bush Brothers in Australia, finding there an opportunity to help others. I am very sad that he died so young.

Mrs A.Ayrton-Grime	Guest of I.M.Dadley		
E.D.E.Wakefield	Fleur de Lys	1946-49	
D.E.A.Coles	Fleur de Lys	1946-51	
N.A.Simmons	Star	1946-51	
Mrs P.Simmons			
R.A.Parvin	Star	1947-52	
Mrs M.Parvin			
D.N.Stratford	Red Cross	1949-55	
D.J.Savage	Star	1952-56	
R.W.J.Hall	Star	1952-56	
K.C.C.Burleigh	Star	1953-58	
D.H.Houghton	Star	1954-59	
Ms S.Milton			
G.N.Twine	Fleur de Lys	1954-60	
Mrs G.Twine			
R.H.D.Ayton	Shield	1955-58	Treasurer
R.G.Cranmore	Eagle	1955-60	
Mrs J.Cranmore			
K.J.Phillips	Eagle	1955-60	
P.M.Scott	Shield	1957-62	President 1987-89
Mrs R.Scott			
J.R.M.Hall	Red Cross	1958-63	
Mrs S.Hall			
R.W.Smart	Star	1958-63	
Mrs F.L.Smart			
R.G.Lambert	Chevron	1960-65	
Mrs S.Lambert			
P.Norman-Smith	Shield	1967-72	
A.L.Buttifant	Fleur de Lys	1968-73	Committee
J.C.Rawlins	Shield	1968-74	
Mrs S.Rawlins			
P.Riordan-Eva	Star	1971-75	President 1997-99
A.R.Marshall	Red Cross	1971-74	
P.H.McGahan	Star	1975-77	President 2002-04
Mrs J.McGahan			
R.Walker	Shield	1976-81	
J.Walker			
R.J.Ebdon	Martlet	1979-84	Committee
Mrs C.Ebdon			
J.Ebdon			
Mrs J.Ebdon			
S.C.Twine	Fleur de Lys	1983-88	
Ms E.Aspinall			
J.R.Ardagh	Red Cross	2000-05	
A.J.Balfour	Red Cross	2000-05	
J.F.Bell	Star	2000-05	
Miss R.J.Frankish	Martlet	2000-05	
Miss Z.L.Hammond	Martlet	2000-05	
Miss C.J.E.Hance	Martlet	2000-05	
Miss A.D.J.Hanson	Shield	2000-05	Committee

Miss G.D.A.Jephcott	Martlet	2000-05	
A.R.Rap	Star	2000-05	
Miss V.M.Tomlin	Martlet	2000-05	
R.H.L.Moulton	Staff	1968-96	Secretary
Mrs J.K.Moulton			
H.R.Thomas	Staff	1968-92	
J.R.Bettridge	Staff	1973-	Asst.Secretary
P.G.Statter	Staff	2000-	
Mrs M.Statter			

APOLOGIES:

Mrs R.N.P.Griffiths
 Mr and Mrs S.A.Watson
 The Deputy Headmaster and Mrs Firth
 The Head of the Prep School and Mrs Andrews
 The Head of Hurst House
 The Chairman of the School Council and Mrs Moore
 The Bursar and Mrs Smith
 The Director of Marketing and Mrs Bostridge
 The Chaplain
 The Rev'd P.A and Mrs Hess
 The Senior Provost
 Mr and Mrs Chris Boon
 Mr and Mrs K.Bates
 J.R.Allison

The AGM of the Club was not well attended on Sunday morning, which was a pity as we were given an excellent presentation by the team which had been to Kenya on a project for which the Club had made a generous donation. The Treasurer, Rupert Ayton, explained that our finances are in good health, and he, together with the Hon. Secretary, Roger Moulton, and the Assistant Secretary, John Bettridge were duly re-elected. Mr John Hall was elected Vice President.

The President pointed out that there were members on the committee from six different decades ... a goodly spread indeed!

And so on to the Chapel for the traditional service, though it was noted that "Jerusalem, my Happy Home" has been whittled down to a mere four verses! The banner of Crescent House (created as Chevron had become too large) was blessed by the Chaplain. We were treated to a splendid sermon by Mr Piers Coutts from The King's School, Ely, and it was lovely to hear the choir in such good form. Your editor particularly enjoyed the rendering of Nobody Knows during the Communion.

Before we enjoyed an excellent lunch as guests of the School, the President made presentations on behalf of the Club to Richard Hurley and to Jenny Honeywood. Richard, who has been responsible for teaching IT for twenty five years at Hurst received a silver salver. He is the 31st member of the teaching staff to reach this landmark. Jenny, who has been a member of the catering staff for 30 years, received

a set of wine glasses. She is particularly and affectionately known by those who attend cricket week for her unfailing good humour, even when thirty turn up for breakfast when only eighteen were expected! Richard amused us by revealing details of the President's prowess at mathematics! We are indebted to both of them, and wish them well as they soldier on for Hurst.

In the afternoon, the school's 1st XV showed why it has had such a good season by demolishing the OHJ XV by forty points to five in an entertaining and open game.

And so to tea and home with a glow of satisfaction at having been educated at Hurst. We thank the Headmaster and all at the school for their warm hospitality. We all enjoyed our visit.

The Hurst Johnian Choral Evensong : 2005

19 choristers took part in the St. Etheldreda's Eve Choral Evensong last October which was led by the College's Director of Music, Neil Matthews. After some sectional rehearsals earlier in the day – punctuated by a splendid lunch – the OJ Choir gave a polished performance of Stanford's anthem, "O, For A Closer Walk with God". The Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis were also sung to one of Stanford's settings – in C. The evensong was enjoyed by a congregation of about 40 OJs and former members of the Common Room who sang the hymns with fine spirit: "He who would valiant be" followed by "O Thou who camest from above" and then to conclude the service, the Itinerarium hymn, "Lord, thou has brought us to our journey's end" was sung.

Thanks are due to Neil Matthews and to Kate Bray, the Directors of Music in the Senior School and Prep School respectively, and to Clive Osgood, the College Organist, for giving up their time to make the Choral Evensong possible.

The OJ Choir has now been meeting annually to sing an evensong at Hurst since the early 1990's. The Choir's Choirmaster Emeritus is Nick Searls (Director of Music at Hurst for more than 25 years – who retired in 2004). The choir has grown in numbers for the last five years and OJs who wish to take part in the 2006 choral evensong should contact Robert Ebdon by email: robert.ebdon@btinternet.com

President's Speech at OJ Dinner 15th October 2005

My thanks are due to the Headmaster for kindly allowing us once again to use the school for our Annual Dinner, and indeed for agreeing to say a few words after me. Tim's arrival at Hurst has been a great boon to the school but also to the Hurst Johnian Club. His enthusiasm for us and for our activities has been evident from the outset and we look forward to developing further the excellent relationship between Club and school which is currently enjoyed. We are delighted to welcome you and Henny tonight.

We are also delighted to welcome our tonight former Headmaster Roger Griffiths. Also here as guests in recognition of the hard work they do towards the Etheldreda service are the Director of Music Neil Matthews and his assistant, Clive Osgood – welcome to you both. Also a warm welcome to Graham Tottle and Christopher

Robinson – both OJs – but here as guests of the club as a thank you for the work they have done on the OJ website. It is also a pleasure to have this year's Head Boy and Head Girl, William Sexton and Anna Davies. I know you will have found the company on this table scintillating.

People say that you know you are starting to get old when policemen suddenly seem younger. I was going to say at this point –does this apply also to Headmasters? But then I thought – hang on a minute – what about Hurst Johnian Club Presidents? You may have noticed that they seem to be getting younger too. I looked down the list of attendees tonight, trying to see if there was anyone who had left after me – I found one: Simon Twine – Fleur de Lys 88. I thought I'd found another when I saw a 92 on the list but it was in fact the evergreen Hugh Thomas who left the staff in 1992. Fortunately on going further down the list I found a whole table of OJs who left the school this year. It is super to see them, if only to stop me from being the second youngest person here, and it's good to be able to tell you that one of them has already agreed to join the committee.

But age is a funny thing. One of the reasons for the elevation of your immediate past president, Patrick McGahan, was apparently his youth. Patrick left Star House in 1977, so you can work out how youthful he is. His brother Peter was also here in Star and left in 1985. Out in the field one day during Cricket Week this year, Nick Banfield, who also left (from Shield) in 1985, was chatting to Patrick and said to him "I was in the same year at school as your son Peter." So much for youthful good looks! Anyway, sticking with our youth policy, I am delighted to announce that John Hall has agreed to stand as President when I step down in a year's time.

I am pleased to tell you that the club is in good health and I'm sure that John (should he be elected) will find this to be the case then as well. The club is in good health because of the success of its various branches, the good relationship it enjoys with the school and the hard work of the committee. I should like to pay tribute here to all the members of the committee for what they have done over this past year. I don't really have to do a lot myself. Apart from presenting the public face of the club on occasions such as this and the reunions, the bulk of the work is done by others, especially the treasurer Rupert Ayton, and the Secretary Roger Moulton. The club's sound finances have enabled us to support many worthwhile ventures, and I hope that if you are here tomorrow in the daylight you will be able to see the splendid re-gilded clock and weathervane on the chapel tower paid for by the Hurst Johnian Club.

The activities of the club are also flourishing:

I was fortunate enough to be invited out to dinner with the OJ golfers when they were staying in Sandwich recently and can confirm that their evening activities are flourishing in a big way. They entertained me very well and it was clear that the golf itself is also thriving. Some excellent organisation and some good young golfers with low handicaps are making us more competitive. Here I am mentioning age again; one of the great things about that evening with the golfers was the spread of ages. Every decade from the 40s onwards was represented.

Again a wide range of age groups attended an enjoyable and successful Cricket Week. During the week we were all invited to drinks in the Headmaster's garden - another example of the good relationship to which I have already alluded.

Tennis made a come back this year with a team of mixed ages, ably led by Roger Vernon, recording a victory against the school.

The OJ rugby continues to thrive and they are certainly having a good time judging from the pictures they have placed on the OJ website.

The OJ website: As I mentioned earlier this is worked on by Graham Tottle and Christopher Robinson. Provided that information and photographs are sent, material appears on the website extremely fast. During Cricket Week this year (apart from on the two days when we forgot to e-mail them) we were able to get details of each day's play onto the website that evening, such was the efficiency of Christopher. The golfers have a particularly impressive section too. If you haven't looked at it then I urge you to do so: it has an easy address to remember: www.theojclub.com

As I am sure you are aware, the school has held number of highly successful reunions over the last couple of years. In the last 12 months there I have attended the 70s and 80s reunions. When I went to the 70s reunion to address the gathered multitude I felt rather nervous as I looked out at various faces of people to whom I had had to excuse myself on the rookers of the school. I remembered their names of course because I had had to learn them. I don't know if the "new boys' test" was a tradition going back to the dawn of time but it was certainly an important moment in the life of a shell boy when I was here. I remember that back in 1981, I passed first time largely because I knew the answer to the question "Who is Diana?". A few puzzled looks and then everyone wrote "The Princess of Wales". Everyone except me. I wrote "Mrs. Griffiths."

The reunions, to which I referred a moment ago, no doubt produced a range of similar memories for others who attended. They have certainly been worthwhile, in that they have brought a good number of OJs back to the school, some of whom had not been back for many years. What was clear to all who attended these reunions is the very healthy state of the College. All sorts of new developments make Hurst an exciting and successful school. Education is a complex business these days and I am reminded of a story I heard recently, which I think sums up rather well the problems which teachers face nowadays.

Jesus gathered his disciples around him and said:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blessed are the meek, Blessed are they that mourn, Blessed are the merciful, Blessed are they that thirst for justice, Blessed are they that are persecuted, Blessed are the peacemakers.

And James said "Do we have to know all this?"
And John said "Will there be a test on this?"
And Philip said "I don't have any paper"
And Bartholomew said "Do we have to spell correctly?"
And Mark said "Do we have to hand this in?"
And Simon Peter said "Do the other disciples have to learn this?"

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus' lesson plan.

He said "What are your learning and assessment objectives? What range of teaching strategies did you draw from? Did you provide a differentiated provision? Can I see a cross section of pupils' work?"

And Jesus wept.

Clearly the management and teaching staff at Hurst are coping well with the demands of modern education. Hurst is doing well – long may it flourish.

So may I now ask you to be upstanding and to drink the toast:

Floreat Hurst

Speech to the OJs on Saturday 15th October 2005

A very warm welcome to all of you here. It's extremely good to see such a number including some who have just left. This is one of the greatest weekends in the Hurst calendar. OJs have a love and pride for the place which is enviable, especially to one who has never returned to his old school. Indeed, looking back, in many ways my decision to come to Hurst was significantly coloured by my contact with various Old Boys along the way. When I came down here to interview last summer I met, amongst others, the great Robert Ebdon who is sitting just over here. And having met him, I thought to myself that if this is the sort of Old Boy which Hurst produces then..... I am going nowhere near the place. No, just joking- in fact, the contrary. The impression that I received from him, and from that great group whom I encountered during Cricket Week in that summer [George, Patrick- where are you], was that here was a School which had given its pupils something really special. I quickly discovered that the spirit amongst OJs was mirrored within the School itself. The Hurst spirit, as it is known, is something special and to a sentimental fool like myself it is something to be highly valued. That said, I am not sure that all the OJs have greeted me with quite the same warmth. One conversation which I came across went like this: 'Have you met the new Headmaster yet?' Back came the reply 'No, but I hear he looks about 15 and is changing everything.' Well, sadly I am not 15, I am actually 17 and a half and I am not quite changing absolutely everything the rumours about the Death of the Crest [to misquote Mark Twain] have been somewhat exaggerated. There have been changes, of course. No new Headmaster is wise enough to leave everything just as it was. So, what is different?

The academic side of life. Culturally, I think we have in the last few months given far greater emphasis to matters academic. We have restructured tutoring and the pastoral teams at the School. Expectations have been raised- amongst pupils and possibly staff. I have appointed the great Tim Firth to become Head of the VIth Form as well as Deputy Headmaster and Richard Taylor-West to take over the Middle School. Tim has had an immense impact on these two year groups and I firmly believe that our pupils are the wiser and better for it. Neil Morris has re introduced the Culture Club.... Similarly, in the Middle School, although there is a certain amount of moaning and groaning about the amount of work and number of detentions given for lack of work, expectations, and this is key, have been raised. I want Hurst pupils

genuinely know what their potential is and how to achieve it. They also need to be encouraged, guided and supported in achieving that potential and that is what it is all about. Is it working? Yes, I think so. Is it causing a certain amount of discomfort- yes but only in this transitional phase.

But, life as we all know, is not just about bits of paper with various scores on them. These may well enable a pupil to go on to the university of their choice, and this has to be non-negotiable, but they do not necessarily lead to success in later life. This is down to the development of the individual, the qualities that lie within, their skills and their values. And these three are all nurtured, often, by what happens outside the classroom at Hurst.

Sport- it has been a tremendous year. We have sought to get the balance between excellence and opportunity. One of my great mantras is that there should be no-one on the bench. Every pupil should, if they so wish, have the chance to learn sporting skills and be in a team. In this we have been incredibly successful. There are more teams and more pupils in fixtures than ever before and this has been a real joy to witness. Some of my best moments on the touchline have been watching say the 3rd XI Hockey or the U15B Rugby squad or the girls' Netball 2nd team and, whether pupils are competing at this level or in our elite squads, as always there is the sense that we are punching well above our weight, taking on schools far larger than Hurst, and winning. As I often say, it is not the size of the dog in the fight that counts but the size of the fight in the dog - and Hurst is quite some dog.

Highlights from the year include:

To pull out a few highlights. Our 1st XV last year lost only two matches – one to a squad of stupendously large and terrifyingly proficient players from New Zealand. Our Hockey 2nd XI lost only one fixture whilst last term our swimmers defeated, amongst others, Tonbridge - a school which has poured millions into sport. In one 24 hour period in March our U15 boys became County Champions in both rugby and hockey whilst in netball both our 1sts and U16's were County Independent Schools champions. Overall, some 25% of our boys and girls play at County level. For a school of our size, that is quite simply, extraordinary.

Watching these teams in action has been to see real grace, strength and skill and, at times, pure theatre. Which brings me neatly to Creative Hurst.

Drama this year has had more than a touch of the surreal about it. On the one hand the Shakespeare production which was a fabulous performance of *A Winter's Tale*, went on tour to Japan of all places. And our musical in the Lent Term was written by the Directors of Music and Drama here and involved the rather different story of a time warp in Hull. Certainly a change from the usual *Cabaret* or *Oliver*. This year we are returning to more traditional fare with *Much Ado About Nothing* this term and *Kiss Me Kate* or *Oliver* next term. There have, as well, been numerous, small but impressive productions and I am particularly keen to see a growth in these being directed, produced and acted in by the pupils alone, with staff only taking a mentoring role at the side. Sometimes, as teachers, we almost teach and direct too much and do not give our pupils sufficient opportunity to take the initiative in what they do and to run with their own ideas.

In Music, with the appointment of Neil Matthews in the senior school as Director of Music, it has been a good year and I confidently predict that Music is on its way back to the glory days of the 80's. There's a challenge, Neil. The choir is growing and the orchestra is building. We have jazz bands and rock bands aplenty which certainly keep me entertained in a rather nostalgic sort of way. Above all, I am delighted in the way in which the School has become a School which sings in Chapel. If they are on form tomorrow morning, I expect them to raise the roof. And I hope that you will be impressed.

As many of you will know, the year started with the completion of the Dance and Drama Studios and these have been a real asset. The Shakespeare performance, *Much Ado About Nothing*, will be our major inaugural performance in the Drama Studio, whilst in the Dance area, with the advent of Miss Zoe Hitchcock, we have seen not exactly dancing in the cloisters but certainly a tremendous interest in this area. It has really caught on with both girls and boys and it is good to see. Similarly, the presence of Art is felt throughout the College, not least with those amazing cows which some of you may have seen earlier on today, two of which have been painted by Hurst pupils. Everywhere you go in Hurst, the Art Department has left its mark.

Moving briskly away from Art, I am delighted to report that the CCF is thriving and that we should once again be putting a shooting team together, which I hope will compete at Bisley and elsewhere. I am also very keen on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and a recent appointment to the staff means that we should be looking at 30-40 Silver Awards and maybe 15-20 Gold Awards each year. The Scheme fits remarkably well with what we do at Hurst and I believe that it will catch on in a major way. The same goes for climbing, kayaking and other outdoor activities. In a world where parents, and people generally, seem terribly keen to avoid all risk for children, I believe it is of absolutely vital importance that we teach our children not how to avoid risk but how to manage the inevitable risks of life properly and safely. In spite of the tabloidisation of tragedies on trips, I am determined that we, as a School, will continue to offer a vibrant programme of such activities and, indeed, I expect a climbing expedition to go to the Alps next summer.

Finally, and most importantly, we come to Community Hurst. It is not the buildings, great though they are, which make a place, but the people, and it is how they interact that makes a community. And, here at Hurst, we have simply a great group of people, staff, pupils, OJs, bound together by a love of the place, an ambition for it and those within it and a real sense of belonging to somewhere special. Each House has its own character. Star continues to get hairier and sportier by the day, Shield just gets pinker. Then we have the new kid on the block, Crescent. As many of you will know, Chevron was becoming quite a large beast. Spread over two floors it was becoming difficult to manage and build that very special community spirit which is so important to us here. It is vital, in my mind, that our Houses are small, tight, loving dare I say, communities and Chevron was getting too big for that. As a result, we have split Chevron into two (do have a look) and the top floor of what was Chevron has now been turned into Crescent. Named after one of the original dormitories of the School, it is already cutting out its own identity and place in the pantheon. Tomorrow morning, we will see the arrival of the Crescent banner in Chapel and it will be a great moment for those involved in this fine new House.

It is time for me to draw to a close and I wish to do so by thanking those who have organised this weekend [Tom, the OJ committee and Derick Bostridge]. And also to you for being here and maintaining that very precious link to this great School. I also want to just say thank you for paying for the gilding of the clock and weathervane. The scaffolding is coming down and the Clock will be reconnected next week. What a fabulous, fabulous gift. I also like the idea that the clock and weathervane are symbolic of the School itself. Because, like them, the School fundamentally remains the same but as we enter another era, the school is renewed. The same core values, the same Hurst spirit, the same sense of self but it is now entering, once more, an exciting, new bright era and it will be a place of which we can all be immensely proud.

Thank you for listening.

SUMMER BALL 2006

The Last Word

Diplomacy

During the Cold War, at a cheerful diplomatic party in the United States, the British and Soviet Ambassadors were discussing their past athletic prowess.

To compare their current form, they strolled out to the sidewalk, paced out 100 yards and proceeded to run a two-man race which was won by the British Ambassador.

The next morning the sports page of Pravda, the Russian newspaper, carried the following report:

“In Washington last night the British and Soviet Ambassadors competed in a race for diplomats. The Soviet Ambassador finished second, while the British Ambassador finished one from last”.