

From the President of the OVA

Dear Fellow Old Victorians

As I write this report on a very cold February day with the A.G. M a month away, it is hard to believe that my first year in office is coming to a close. However, looking back it has been a year full of excellent social and sporting events. The past President's Dinner and Sovereign Day's lunch were two such Socials enjoyed by many at the Victoria Club. It is sad to note the difficulties that this wonderful venue has experienced since.

The London Dinner was this year held in the Members Dining Room at the House of Commons on Thursday November 19th 2009. Organised once again by Mark Boleat the attendance of 150 was a record with the College Football Team once again our guests.

Team Captain Charles Payn gave the first speech and was proud to announce that the 1st XI had recently passed through their 50th match unbeaten by their fellow school teams and had beaten Eton that afternoon. O.V. Past President Richard Pirouet then spoke paying tribute to retiring Head Master

Bob Cook who responded with a report of the excellent results achieved at Victoria College both in the classroom and on the sports field. Stanley Stride then introduced our host for the evening, Conservative M.P. for Henley-on-Thames John Howell who gave a very entertaining speech which brought a memorable evening to a close. Mark Boleat is currently working on another top London venue for this November.

The 97th Annual O.V Christmas Dinner took place in the Great Hall on the 17th December and was attended by 147 OVs and guests including Head Masters Bob Cook and Phil Stevenson and the new Bailiff Mr Michael Birt. The pre-dinner drinks were taken in the Bistro Victoria before everyone took their seats in the Great Hall where the Jersey Potteries provided an excellent meal supported by some splendid wines and Port. The Head Master outlined another successful year at Victoria College before proposing a toast to the OVA. As President I reported on OV achievements in 2009 before welcoming our guests and introducing Rod McLoughlin as our Guest Speaker. (*See an edited version of his speech later in the Newsletter*) Rod who had been due to speak the previous year but had been taken ill at the last moment proved to be well worth waiting for and provided many amusing stories and at one time had the entire attendance singing a Scottish football song for his lesser known team that he has supported since childhood, Airdrie United. The evening closed with more singing, firstly the Carmen followed by Christmas Carols and thanks to Edward Bailhache for playing the organ.

Thanks also to Garret O'Brien and Ben Toudic for their efforts in organising the event and to Liz Shrimpton, from the Foundation, for her work in administration and money gathering!

This year's dinner is going to be held on Thursday 16th December 2010 and will be our first chance to entertain the new Head Master, Mr Alun Watkins and hopefully His Excellency the Lt. Governor Lt. General Andrew Ridgway will be able to join us.

Sports Reports

In November the OV President's Football XI played the College and having lost at



cricket and athletics I assembled the best OV team ever to play against the almost unbeatable school boys. The first half was an even contest and finished at 2-2 but the OV team started with second half well and were soon leading 6-3, before the school mounted a determined fight back. The final score was 7-6 to the OVs and thanks to Lee Burns the school 1st XI coach for organising the game and the mums who made the afternoon tea.

OVs make up over half the Island Cricket Team which (at the time of writing) are heading to Nepal to compete in the World Cricket League Division 5 Tournament. OVs also make up the majority of the Jersey Hockey and Shooting Teams which enjoy both National and International success.

In local Hockey the Convicts are currently fighting to retain the League Championship whilst in Division 2, the Victims are in second place. All three College teams which compete in the Island Leagues are showing excellent form so will hopefully provide OV hockey players in the future. The OV over 50s team recently lost to Chelmsford Hockey Club 2-0 in the England Hockey Association Masters Plate. Having enjoyed a 3-0 win in the previous round against Trojans, hopes were high of reaching the quarter finals of a National Competition but they came up against a very strong side who deservedly won the game. Thanks to Tim Herbert who manages our team and organises the matches.

The newly formed OV Rifle Club enjoyed a very successful summer and anyone interested in joining is invited to contact Club Captain David Le Quesne at davidlequesne@hotmail.com.

OV Brett Pitman (22) is enjoying a very successful football season playing for AFC Bournemouth in the English 2nd Division. He is the team's top goal scorer and they are currently in an automatic promotion place.

Surfer Ben Skinner has become ESF European Long board Tour Champion winning surfing events in Spain, Jersey and Portugal last year.

G.B. Bobsleigher Will Golder is one of 10 top athletes studying at the University of Chichester to be awarded a Sports Scholarship, which will help him cover travel and

other expenses. Will recently finished 12th in the World Junior Bobsleigh Championships in St Moritz.

Future sporting events will see OVs take to the athletics track at the FB Fields to compete for the Stafford Trophy against the College. This takes place in late May or early June and Rob Currie would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to compete. You can contact him at robcurrie@hotmail.co.uk.

The OV Golf Competition for the Ken Tait Bowl will take place on the afternoon of Thursday June 24th at the Royal Jersey Golf Club. Please contact Mike Tait if you would like to take part in a very enjoyable event which is followed by a dinner and prize giving.

OVs v Victoria College at cricket is to take place on College Field on Saturday July 17th at 1pm. If you would like to place please contact me or just join us to watch the match and take in the atmosphere and the afternoon tea.

The squash courts have seen an increase in usage which brings in much needed income to the Association as well as promoting general wellbeing for all users. At only £80 a year for a casual booking (turn up and play) and £100 per annum for a fixed (weekly booking), this represents excellent value. To book contact Alex Langley on alex.langley@gt-ci.com.

Once again our thanks to Jonathan Giles of Rathbones for his continued sponsorship of OV sports teams.

Please note that Nick Faria and Paul Le Maistre, the ICT staff at Victoria College have updated the website which will be live from Monday 22nd February 2010. The new address is www.victoriacollege.je.

May I wish you all a very pleasant summer.

Mike Labey (67-75)