

From the desk of **Graham Whitty**



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE OLD ALBANIAN CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction:

It has been some years since the last AGM was conducted and in that time the Club has been led by Garth Ridgway (Class of 1986) until he stepped down as Chairman in March 2020. The OAC Committee asked myself to take over from Garth until such time as our next AGM.

Significant Developments over the past few years:

During Garth's tenure the Club has grown in stature in a number of key areas.

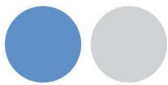
- The Club has cemented strong and meaningful relationships with the Headmaster of the College and the Chairman of Council. These strong working relationships have ensured that the OAC is able to work with the College in a co-ordinated manner for the benefit of both the College and the OAC.
- The growth and development of the office of the Alumni Manager employed by the College to work on behalf of the OAC has been a very significant step in capacitation of the OAC.
- As a result, the annual reunions and home coming events have received a significant amount of attention and these events now attract large numbers of Old Boys back to the College each year.
- A large amount of work has gone into building a reliable database of our Old Boys. This would not be possible without the full time efforts of the Alumni Manager. This is critical work needed to ensure we are able to communicate with our Alumni and stay connected. Significant improvements have been made in communication with the Alumni and the level of interaction with the College is growing exponentially.
- A highly successful annual Golf Day has been organized which has become the main fundraising event for the OAC as well as a key event that fosters fellowship amongst our members.
- The OAC has been able to support bursaries and scholarships at the College as a result of the fundraising efforts. For the most part the beneficiaries have been sons of Old Boys.
- Regular consideration and awarding of honorary membership of the OAC as well as the Mitre and Glave awards has been established, ensuring that the OAC recognizes those who have given exceptional service to the OAC as well as Alumni who have excelled in their chosen careers and vocations.

A New Vision

There can be no doubt that the College has grown and matured into a truly unique and special place. I would say that it has transcended from its adolescent formative stages into a confident adult forging its way forward in an ever-changing local and global context. The College is not so old as to be constrained by outdated traditions, but equally it is old enough to have developed a strong culture and set of values which transcend all that it does.

I believe that the OAC needs to adapt and develop in tandem with the College and the world around us. In truth, perhaps the OAC has gotten a bit behind the curve in some respects.

Historically, the Club has been run by a dedicated group of Old Albanians primarily focused on hosting events at the College with a view to bringing the Old Albanian community back to the campus to ensure they remain connected. As mentioned above, these events have grown in stature and participation over the years and will continue to play an important part of what the OAC does.



However it is time for the OAC to stretch itself and take on a much broader mandate. There are many Old Albanians who may never return to the College, as many now live in other countries or parts of South Africa. Indeed, it is fair to say that some also don't have the fondest memories of our time at the College.

It is true to say that we live in a very challenging world, and that once one leaves school it can be brutally difficult to find opportunity and to develop fulfilling careers. If we look at the success of many of the more established schools Old Boys associations, they centre around a community or network that is there **to serve the Old Boys** by connecting them in such a way as to offer opportunities in work, social life, sports and other interests.

Imagine a network that could be used by Old Boys to seek out and find the best talent for your business, that offered young Alumni work experience and internships, that connected brilliant ideas with capital and experience, that ensured that when you move to a new city you have a network you can plug into. In today's world your networks are essential tools for survival and the network of over 3500 Alumni that we have could and should be a powerful resource for us all, no matter where you are in the world, and no matter what your experience of the College was.

It is my vision to transform the OAC into this kind of a network, one that helps our Alumni in their journey through life and creates a fellowship for our Brothers Of The Sword. I cannot do this alone, and am thankful for those who are serving on the main Committee and are committed to making this happen. I am hopeful that we will be able to inspire the many proud Old Albanians to be a part of this fellowship, and entice back those who may have felt that they had no place in the OAC.

Learning from History

Critical to any organisation's success and evolution is the ability to learn from the experiences of the past. It is often said that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

We live in a very broken and damaged society with a long history of discrimination and repression. Any organisation that operates in this environment, including the College, is going to, in some way, reflect the realities of the society around it.

One of the new focuses of the OAC will be to ensure that the experiences of Old Albanians are heard by the governance and leadership structures at the College. We hope to ensure that there is a feedback loop to the school that ensures it has the opportunity to learn from the experiences of its Alumni. After all, our Alumni are a significant part of the College's history.

I am pleased to announce that we have recently formed a Young Alumni Committee that will spearhead this work. The Committee is being led by Claude Kamangirira (Class of 2010). There have already been a number of engagements with the College and I am very hopeful that a powerful and beneficial process will unfold. The central aim is to contribute to the ongoing process to ensure that the College is a welcoming and safe place for all who attend it. As Shane Kidwell (Headmaster) has said; this is a never ending process of evaluation, reflection and action.

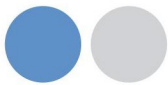
The College does have in place a program that pulls together all the stakeholders (staff, parents, current students) in what is known as Being & Belonging. Until now the OAC has not been involved in its structures, and I am confident that Claude and his Committee will be valued new contributors to this program.

This is not easy work but it is important work and in the context of our country it is essential work that helps contribute to a better future, and to preparing young men for life.

Rite of Passage

I am very excited that this year the OAC will host a rite of passage event for the Matric Class of 2020 that will see these young men inducted formally into the Old Albanian Club.

It is our aim to establish some new and powerful traditions to mark the transition from school boy to young man.



This particular year group have had a very challenging year with many of the usual Matric year events being cancelled due to COVID-19. In addition, there has been no sport since March and as a result many of the hopes and dreams these boys would have had for their Matric year have disappeared as casualties of the pandemic.

I feel it is especially important that the OAC makes an effort for this group.

I am grateful for the work of Tyrone Carroll (Class of 1989) and the Committee he has assembled to make this event possible and special.

Golf Day

As with so many things in 2020 our annual Golf Day that was due to be played in September was cancelled. This event has grown into a fully-booked wonderful success, bringing together Old Albanians and friends of the College. It is also our main fundraising event helping us to provide financial assistance to the scholarship program. In 2020 the funds are needed like never before and therefore it is very sad that we have not been able to contribute in the way we have become accustomed.

The College, however, did launch an appeal to the wider Albanian community for donations to assist some young men's families who had been dramatically affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and were no longer able to afford the school fees.

There has been a tremendous response with over R500,000 having been raised. Donations ranging from R500 to R100,000 have been received and significantly, there have been young men at the school who have donated their scholarships and/or personal savings to assist their fellow Albanians.

Changes to our Constitution

We will be asking the Alumni to approve some amendments to the OAC's Constitution. These are designed to bring our constitution up-to-date with the current realities of the world around us, and to address a number of short comings in areas such as our aims and objectives, qualifying members, composition of the Committee, and disciplinary procedures. It is my hope that this will be adopted at the AGM.

Final Words

I am struck by the enormous uncertainty that we are all facing. In times like this we need a few anchors to prevent us from being swept away on the tide of despair, frustration, fear and anger. One thing that is not changeable is our past – that is set in stone. There will be experiences, lessons, and relationships from our past that we can rely on to be anchors in this storm. It has been incredible how many Old Albanians have been making contact with the College and the OAC over the past few months. I guess our time at school is part of our past and perhaps it is an anchor of sorts.

I will conclude with a word of thanks to Mandy Sutcliffe (Alumni Manager) who is doing fantastic work in advancing the interests of the OAC. I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their time and dedication and in particular to Garth Ridgway for his leadership over the past number of years.

Graham Whitty (Class of 1990)
Chairman of the OAC

From the desk of the **Old Albanians Club**



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE OLD ALBANIAN CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22 OCTOBER 2020

Introduction

The OAC has enjoyed a better financial position over the past number of years than in the past. This can be attributed to the following:

- The annual Golf Day which raises between R 100,000 and R 150,000 each year.
- The annual income from matriculating pupils at the College which is currently set at R750.00 per pupil. This is the membership entry fee to the OAC and this contributes between R 75,000.00 and R 80,000.00 annually.

Summary of Financial Position:

The club is unable to submit a comprehensive set of financial accounts at present. This is due to the fact that we are currently locked out of our FNB account and have had difficulty getting all the necessary parties together to sign documents to re-activate their profiles.

Our last statement from late 2019 gave a cash balance of approx. R 300,000.00. In addition to this there is a small amount of R 5,604.00 owing to the OAC by the College.

The Club has no other assets and no current liabilities.

Income for 2020

The Committee agreed that the R 750.00 per matriculating pupil membership should not be increased in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant economic impact on many families. The charge has been added to the pupil's accounts for the third term of 2020. Given the very uncertain times we live in, it is difficult to predict how much of this we will be able to collect, However, in the event of all parents paying the account we can expect an income of R 82,200.00.

Unfortunately, the OAC was not able to host its annual Golf Day in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown regulations.

There are no other expected sources of income for 2020.

Bursary/Scholarship Support

The proceeds of the 2019 Golf Day together with our 2019 membership income were earmarked in the amount of R200,000 for support of a bursary in 2020.



The intention was to support a new boy with the amount of R 40,000.00 per annum over the course of his 5 year attendance at the College. However, the College specifically asked for support for a Form 3 boy whose father had recently passed away and the family were unable to afford the fees. The Committee agreed to assist and the total support paid in 2020 has been R 150,600 to date, with a further R 12,219.50 due in 2020. The total value of the bursary for 2020 is therefore R162,819.50.

The balance of our approved R200,000 support being R37,180.50 will be allocated to the same beneficiary in the 2021 academic year.

The loss of income from our cancelled Golf Day will impact the OAC's ability to support the bursary to the same level as we have in 2020. Once the Committee has finalised our exact financial position, it will evaluate any further contributions that may be possible.

200 Club:

In 2013, the 200 Club was established as a means of raising funds. 25% of funds raised were earmarked for prizes and the balance was intended to help fund the OAC's activities. A total of 60 members were signed up, but by late 2016 the 200 Club ceased all activity. A total of R 142,800.00 had been collected with some having been paid out in various draws.

The funds have been held aside for possible return to the members. However, it was only in August 2020 that direct contact was attempted with all those who contributed with an offer to return the portion of funds that would otherwise have been used to fund the draws. Several of the members have indicated that the funds will be donated to the Club for use in supporting our bursary. The Alumni Manager has committed to ensuring every effort is made to contact the members and to return funds where requested.

Conclusion:

The OAC's financial position is stable despite the loss of income in 2020. This will have a material impact on our bursary support in 2021.

The Committee recognises that the lack of presentation of an income statement and balance sheet is not consistent with the requirements of the Committee as laid down in our Constitution and falls short of acceptable standards. We are committed to ensuring we regain access to our bank account and will prepare a more comprehensive statement of financial position for the next AGM.

Graham Whitty
Chairman

From the desk of the Old Albanians Club



**FORM OF PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OLD ALBANIAN CLUB
TO BE HELD IN THE ANTON MURRAY PAVILION, ST ALBAN'S COLLEGE ON THURSDAY,
22 OCTOBER 2020 AT 18:00**

I,

In my respective capacity as a member of the Old Albanian Club, hereby appoint Graham Whitty, as my Proxy to attend, speak and vote for me and on my behalf at the AGM of the Old Albanian Club to be held on the 22nd day of October and at any adjournment thereof, as follows:

Resolution	In Favour	Against	Abstain
1. Approval and adoption of amended Constitution			
2. Approval of new Honorary Members			
3. Approval of the following members onto the Old Albanian Committee:			
Graham Whitty			
Tyrone Carroll			
Garth Ridgway			
Alex Powell			