



Dear ODs

Firstly, a very happy new year to you and your families. May 2016 bring you good health and happiness, laughter and love.

With reference to the Notes from the OD Union Office, written by our Chairman Brian Robertson, on page 136 of the December 2015 magazine, **Paul Cannon (1953S)** wrote in to say: -

*I'm writing to say how much I enjoyed the article by Brian Robertson in the December 2015 magazine, about the important role played by the OD Union in the transition of a matriculant, from Bishops boy to becoming an individual in a highly competitive, sometimes unfriendly world.*

*I agree with Brian that the photograph of Principal Hubert Kidd (see attached) saying goodbye to two Matrics as they make their final journey down the Avenue is a favourite. It is so for me because in the year it was taken, 1949, I was the private fag of both those prefects in 'Top House' - Martin Oppen (1949S) on the left and Hilary Squires (1949S) on the right. In my newboy year, I fagged for each for two terms, first Squires and later Oppen.*

*Oppen was one of Bishops' best boxers and we admired him for that. However, his nose bled easily and in any match against the likes of SACS or General Botha, his white blue-ribboned vest and shorts would be covered in blood - and be given to me to be washed. He never discovered that this arduous task was always impeccably performed by my beloved mother who, though I was a boarder, lived not too far away in Kenilworth and within reach of dayboy 'messengers'.*

*In 1949, Hilary Squires was Head of School House, and when he returned to Post Matric in 1950, he was also Head of School (thus he wasn't really a 'leaver' when that photo was taken). We newboys were incredibly fortunate to have Squires as our Head because over previous years, School House had gained the reputation of being really tough on newcomers. However, Squires banned the custom of 'running the gauntlet' of knotted towels and belts, and he did away with newboys having to sing solos in front of jeering House members. He believed in strong discipline, but abhorred bullying. And thinking about Hilary Squire's career in life, Brian Robertson's comments about transformation from boy to man become even more pertinent.*

*Another reason for that photograph holding special memories for me concerns the small trees on either side of the tarmac. Planted in about 1850, over the years the original stone pines grew to form a very high tunnel-like Avenue from the entrance-gates into the College. On 30 June 1943 - the day that Hubert Kidd became Principal - a vast storm blew down the whole Avenue and so new trees were planted in holes that went down into the ironstone.*

*Four years later in 1947, when I was a dayboy at the Prep, we were returning along the Avenue after rugby practice on Top Field and I hurdled a few of these young trees. Disaster! A prefect reported me to my Housemaster, 'Cappy' Dodd, who beat me three for allegedly knocking off the tops of those small trees. When I drive down the Avenue these days, I marvel at the fact that I jumped over some of those same trees nearly 70 years ago!*

The **OD Union Annual Dinner** will take place on Wednesday 9 March 2016 at Kelvin Grove at 6 for 7pm. Dress: Black tie or suit. Guest Speaker: Guy Pearson (Principal). MC: Anton Taylor. Cost: R350. EFT: Standard Bank Branch: Rondebosch 025009 Name: OD Union Acc: 274 927 187 Reference: Your full name and matric year. Please send proof of payment to: [dorourke@bishops.org.za](mailto:dorourke@bishops.org.za) Tables are filling up!

The **OD Union AGM** takes place on Thursday 10 March 2016 in the Woodlands Pavilion at 6pm.

**Founders Day 2016** takes place on Friday 11 March. If you wish to take part, please contact the applicable person below: -

Shooting: Phil Calothi [phil@lsds.co.za](mailto:phil@lsds.co.za)

Tennis: John Smuts [westbury@iafrica.com](mailto:westbury@iafrica.com)

Basketball: Glen Gibbon [ggibbon@bishops.org.za](mailto:ggibbon@bishops.org.za)

Water Polo: Fiona Mallett [fmallett@bishops.org.za](mailto:fmallett@bishops.org.za)

Debating: Aneen Kritzinger [akritzinger@bishops.org.za](mailto:akritzinger@bishops.org.za)

Cricket: Teams are full.

The **Walker Cup Golf Day 2016** takes place on 4 March at the Rondebosch Golf Club. ODs wishing to play should please contact Brian de Kock [bdekock@iafrica.com](mailto:bdekock@iafrica.com)

The **UK Branch OD Union newsletter** can be viewed at <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=7b5bd99f91896bec2e1ae7f9d&id=6712bb4b37>

The OD Union expresses our deepest condolences to Sue McPetrie (staff) who lost her son **Allan-John McPetrie (2003M)** on 12 December 2015. Condolences to his brothers Michael McPetrie (2005M) and Chris McPetrie (2010M).

It is with regret that I inform you that **Michael Stokes Woolley (1946S)** passed away in Port Elizabeth on 1 January 2016. Our heartfelt condolences go to his sister-in-law Ruth Woolley, nephew Charles Woolley and niece Helen Kaye and their families.

**Andrew Cross**, who left Bishops in Grade 11, passed away on 10 December after a long battle with an illness. Our condolences go to Cheryl and his two sons Ridge and Matthew.

*"Fear cannot be without hope nor hope without fear."* - Benedict de Spinoza (1632 - 1677) Dutch Jewish philosopher.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Best regards

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