



BISHOPS ODU NEWS

8th December 2016

Dear ODs

The boys may be on holiday but the action continues at Bishops with 7s teams, Scotland, Wales and New Zealand, practising on the Piley Rees, leading up to the HSBC 7s taking place this weekend at the Cape Town stadium.

AND THE WINNER IS

With over 17 000 votes cast in our favour which garnered us 60% of the vote, the Piley Rees won Best School Sports Arena in the country for the third year running. For spectacular vistas, few would argue that the Piley is more than just a pretty face; history and tradition is also on its side. The Piley Rees Field is named after the legendary schoolmaster and rugby coach (1922 to 1967.) He died in 1975 and the field was named after him in 1983. In addition, Bishops was the first school in South Africa and in the southern hemisphere to start playing rugby which also means that the Piley is the oldest rugby field in the country. It is a field that has arguably had the most matches played on it by the most players, many of which have gone to play on other famous fields. Congratulations to Donovan Murray (Staff) and his team who work so hard on the up-keep of this prized possession.

WHO AND WHERE?

Warwick Jones (1961S) recently visited the legendary Bishops schoolmaster, Rex Pennington, now 93 years old. Rex is enjoying life with his wife Sarah, in their charming little house in Hilton, KZN. Rex was at Bishops from 1953 to 1968, before becoming Rector at Michaelhouse. Funds have been made available by well-wishers for the creation of a bursary at Michaelhouse in the name of Rex and Sarah to be awarded to a boy with the best attribute of helping his fellow scholars. Sarah continues to show her indefatigable spirit and has recently completed the large task of re-covering the kneelers and prayer books at their Parish Church of the Ascension in Hilton.

ACCOLADE

Dr Greg Mills (1979O) was delighted to receive his National Colours at the Motorsport SA Awards, on account of the Paul Ricard 24-hour podium finish this past July. It's a milestone on a long family road in the sport, the ceremony almost exactly 80 years to the day that his grandfather, Billy Mills, finished sixth in the SA Grand Prix. Given that Greg started karting in 1975, if nothing else, this honour is testament to sheer commitment, as his eldest daughter has reminded him, in never giving up! He is grateful because it is also down to the support, moral and otherwise, from so many friends and quarters in the process.

MENTORING PROGRAMME

Here is an update on the OD Mentoring Programme and some ideas afoot for 2017.

First and foremost, Nicky Bicket (1973F) would like to thank each and every OD who has signed up to be a mentor. That we have many more mentors than mentees at the moment, is something which will change soon as the demand for mentoring increases. This initiative is probably the most important function provided by ODs for ODs and is central to the OD Union's purpose - "ODs helping ODs". Your support is truly valued.

Modern communication technology makes mentoring support almost independent of face-to-face contact and mentors and mentees have overcome and enjoyed the cross-boundary challenges as they work together for mutually beneficial outcomes. There is an increase in the number of SA based mentees asking for off-shore mentors.

The following plans to develop this further in the coming year are: -

- A university "buddy" system in which first year ODs are linked with final year or post graduate ODs at that university who will help them integrate into and cope with an ever-more challenging university environment.
- OD mentors reaching into Bishops to establish mentoring relationships with boys before they matriculate and thereby help and guide them.
- Develop and formalise a job market for ODs where employment opportunities for ODs can be offered and sought.

Give back and sign up at <https://form.jotformeu.com/61863512428356>

And if any of you would like to send Nicky feedback or suggestions, please e-mail him on nbicket@katale.co.uk

UK NEWS

The UK December 2016 Newsletter can be read at <http://us6.campaign-archive1.com/?u=7b5bd99f91896bec2e1ae7f9d&id=12fdf774e8>

Subscribe to the UK Newsletter at <https://form.jotformeu.com/62625993969376>

DATES FOR THE DIARY

ANNUAL EVENT

The OD DINNER will take place next year on Thursday the 16th March. Further details will be sent out shortly.

25 DECEMBER

The Christmas Day Eucharist Service will be held in the Memorial Chapel at 08H30. All are welcome.

SPORT

Alex Stewart (2013O) and Ryan Julius (2013K) are currently in India for the U21 Hockey

World Cup on from 8th to 18th December.

Murray Wilcox will be part of the UCT team taking part in the Cape2Rio Yacht Race in 2017.

Congratulations to Greg Mallett (2001K) who has been appointed the Western Province Boys U19B Water Polo Coach and Fiona Mallett (Staff) who will take on the role as Team Manager for WP U19 boys.

Dasch Barber (2006M) will be representing South Africa as a Water Polo Referee in New Zealand over the next few weeks when the SA Schools and SA Youth Teams participate in tournaments.

A National Schools Water Polo tournament is taking place in Durban from the 8th to 11th December. Bishops have boys represented in all of the Western Province teams. You can follow the action at <http://www.mycomlink.co.za/event.php?i=10034>

REMINDERS

MAGAZINE

The December 2016 has been loaded onto our website. You can view the ODU section at: [-http://www.bishops.org.za/magazine/Dec2016/OD.pdf](http://www.bishops.org.za/magazine/Dec2016/OD.pdf)

Hard copy mags have gone out in the post.

COLLEGE STAFF FAREWELLS

At the end of the year we say farewell to the following staff: -

Interns: Kerry van Zyl (BSU), Casey Morgan, Mubashir Solomon and Clement Mabula.

Admin: Wendy van Heerden (Principal's PA), Sheila Roff (Music Administrator) and Kathy Dimbleby (Housemother White House).

Academic: Marcus Bizony (retiring after 33 years at Bishops), Jannie de Villiers (on promotion to Head of Oakhill), Wessel Theron (on promotion to Hilton as HOD Afrikaans) and Gary Coombe (retiring).

We thank each and every one of these staff members for their fantastic contribution to Bishops.

BEY FROM THE BAY

As previously promised, I compiled a document (attached) of all the tributes and anecdotes I received from ODs after Basil Bay passed away. Thank you for your contributions.

RESPECTS

I regret to inform you that Nigel Gibbs (1952F) sadly passed away in Swindon Hospital on Monday the 28th November, a few months short of his 80th birthday. Nigel will be sorely missed by his wife Barbara, sons Paul and Douglas, daughter Mairi, brothers Jeremy

(1953F), Timothy (1956F), Kenneth (1957F) and Simon; also his grandchildren, Sally, Gemma, Alice, George, Emily and William. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Fairford, Gloucestershire on Friday 16th December at 2pm.

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Caroline Pekeur (Staff) passed away on Sunday morning 4th December. Caroline suffered an aneurysm on Tuesday 29th November. Although the operation to stem the bleeding in her brain was successful, she did not regain consciousness and the doctors confirmed that there was no brain activity on Saturday evening. The family agreed that it would have been Caroline's wish to donate her organs and the life support machines were switched off. Caroline started working at Bishops in 1980. She was at Bramley for 15 years before moving to the Cleaning Department. In 2005 she was promoted to the position of Cleaning Supervisor, a position which earned her the respect and love of boys, parents and staff alike. Caroline had a heart of gold and above all she loved Bishops and everything she did was always in the best interests of the school. Our thoughts and prayers are with her partner, Deon and their two sons Gavin and Deeno and their families as well as Carol and her team of cleaners. Her funeral will take place on Monday 12th December in the Memorial Chapel at 2:30pm.

THE MITRE

I will be going on leave from Thursday 15th December until Monday 9th January. WP van Zyl will be in the office as much as possible during the holidays so that he can meet and greet our ODs who are visiting from out of town. If you would like to pop in at The Mitre, please call WP on 021 659 1995 or 083 565 1374.

E-MAIL NOTICE

The College IT department will be carrying out annual maintenance on our server tomorrow, Friday 9th December and Monday 12th December which means our e-mail and our website will be down. We will be contactable on Delre 021 685 1829 and WP 021 659 1995.

NOTE

I will be sending out a short newsletter next Thursday 15th December, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for keeping me informed. Effective communication requires an exchange of information. This year has been a productive and rewarding one. When I get up in the morning, I don't have to come to work, I want to!

Jewish Festival of Lights of Rededication

Happy Hanukkah for 25th December 2016 to 1st January 2017

Warmth of joy, glow of prosperity, sparkle of happiness - May you be blessed with all these and more!

Happy Eid Milad-UN-NABI!

On the 13th December may the birth of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) usher in an era of peace, love, happiness and prosperity on you!

Faith makes everything possible, hope makes everything work and love makes everything

beautiful. May you have all three in 2017!

If you are going away for the holidays, please travel safely.

"Christmas is not only a time of rejoicing but of reflection" - Winston Churchill

With warmest wishes

Delre

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