

Old Grey Union Europe

Chairman's Report for the 2009 Annual General Meeting

1. Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to present my report for the year ending 31 December 2008 and to update you on current activities and more importantly to outline some of the challenges facing us in the years ahead.

2. Finance

Copies of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008 are available for distribution. Your committee agreed after the formation of the Charitable Trust to encourage all donors and contributors to our Union to direct their contributions to the Trust because of the benefits it enjoys. The financial position of the Trust is therefore the key measure of our ability to meet our future bursary commitments.

3. Bursaries

The 2 recipients of our 2009 bursaries have done very well this year, which is a familiar situation and one we can all be very proud of. At this point in time we are not aware of how the school will allocate the bursaries for 2010.

4. Charitable Trust

The Trust continues to receive a lot of our attention because of the financial advantages to the Trust for all contributions made and the tax advantage to the donor. I would like to ask Patrick Fleming to give an update on the financial position of the Trust and to highlight the importance of the Trust to the School.

5. Events

A quiet year compared to previous years with no activities planned other than our Annual Dinner. There are a number of reasons for this. One is that we have tried over the years to provide what we believe are interesting activities which would be well supported, only to find that they are not. There are many reasons for this with the key being our inability to locate and communicate with all Old Greys in the UK. This has in turn resulted in your Committee "best guessing" what our OG's want in the form of social and /or sporting activities.

This is an area we have focussed on but it will require further attention in the coming year.

6. School Tours

There were no school tours to the UK during the year.

7. Business Network

We received our normal level of enquiries during the year and did notice a marked change in that a lot of the communications were requests to use our network to promote business or personal activities, which is obviously something we do not allow.

8. Database

Our Webmaster has done a superb job during the year and our database is cleaner and is a more accurate representation of the membership in the UK. Our ability to effectively communicate with Old Greys and provide the social and basic support structure required is dependent on the it's accuracy and we ask for the continued support of all members in this regard.

9. New Committee

We have much pleasure in welcoming Ron Baynes and Graham Finnemore as new committee members. During the year Paul Connell resigned as Treasurer and hence we are looking for a replacement for him on the committee. If you would like to join us in this capacity or would like to nominate someone then please speak to a

committee member. All existing committee members will be eligible for re-election this year, however we are still looking for “new blood” to join us so as to provide new ideas and create new opportunities.

10. Conclusion

In conclusion I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their support during the year. It has been a tough year for many members and we are aware that many have returned to South Africa primarily as a result of the current economic climate. There is therefore a greater need for us to ensure we maintain effective communications with all Old Greys so as to ensure we can assist and support members, as appropriate.

I will be stepping down as Chairman in the New Year and would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and all Old Greys for your support over the last 3 years. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as Chairman and have no doubt that my successor will as well. I will be staying on as a committee member and look forward to being able to assist and support the new Chairman and the committee.