

OLD ALTRINCHAMIANS ASSOCIATION
AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15th November 2022, 7:00 pm, School (PE Classroom in the Grammar) and Zoom

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Present**
3. **Minutes of the previous A.G.M.**
4. **Matters Arising**
5. **Chairman's Remarks**

Firstly, thank you everyone for joining us this evening, whether that's in person or via the video link.

After the challenges of the lockdown years, it's been a relief to have had a year of relative stability. On the face of it at least. But typically, after a period of severe upheaval, there often tends to be a period of significant change.

I won't comment on the political landscape but social and economic changes feel relentless right now and for those of us who've lived our entire lives under the reign of Elizabeth II, many will have experienced a sense of unease as something so constant and so familiar passes on.

It's tenuous to say the least to relate the Old Alts to the monarchy but it is something that has existed for all of us, for all of our lives. Indeed, for well over a century. And it exists because of how important the bonds of friendship and shared experience are that we made in our days at school. The last few years has shown just how important and valued this is and how all the more important it is that we do everything we can to continue to champion and inspire connections and friendships among the AGSB Alumni.

For helping to support this wonderful, enduring institution, I'd like to thank everyone on the committee for their continued support:

- Headmaster, thank you for keeping us up to speed with everything that's been going on at school and for getting so many new old Alts to sign up this year
- Steve, thank you for your support on a number of initiatives and for delivering a fantastic, fresh format for this year's Annual Dinner.
- Antony – a special thank you as you head off into rural retirement, for all your work as Magazine editor and committee Secretary over the years. All the very best to you in the 'shire.
- Ken, from home and abroad, thanks for all your support this year, especially for getting the database up to date and of course, for keeping the finances in check.
- David, Alex, Aaiysh and George – always great to have you guys around to discuss issues of the day and bring far more objective views than mine to the table!
- Larry – for being ever present, for challenging to ensure the best decisions are made. And for championing the Arts as an area the Old Alts should get behind.
- Roger and Gil – our latest committee signings, who I'm hugely excited to have on board!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Clark for his support of the Old Alts. And to congratulate him and the whole Old Alts FC team on finally managing to get their Centenary Dinner away. And a sell out event – what a result!

Highlights of the Old Alts year for me included the amazing Annual Dinner at Blanchflower in Altrincham town centre. A fantastic venue, with superb food and service. Our thinking is that we

should continue with this less formal format and then every 5th year, to have a proper large scale formal dinner at the school. To this end, the 2023 dinner will be something similar to this years and will be held on Friday 3rd March....details tbc. The next formal dinner at school will be in 2025.

The Golf Day at Chorlton was another huge success, with a great turn out from Old Alts, parents, teachers and boys. Congratulations to Scott Meakin, who once again took the Old Alts trophy, pipping last year's winner Dave Stephens into second spot. We've had significant interest in expanding the event next year. It is likely to be held at Chorlton and details will be sent out asap. Thanks as always to Scott and the Chorlton team for putting on a great day.

There has been much to be pleased with about what's been achieved this year, particularly when you look back at the objectives we set ourselves 12 months ago. In summary I set the aims as follows:

Last year, I set a number of targets. If the late and much missed Roger Cleland was marking my report I suspect it might read 'Could do better'....although he'd have found a far more appropriate and descriptive phrase. Nevertheless, here's how we did against those targets:

- **To sell out every event we host in the next 12 months:** technically we didn't sell out the Annual Dinner but I think all who attended would agree we wouldn't have wanted any more in there as the noise was deafening and there was no more room to swing a salami!
- **To successfully launch a new identity for the Old Altrinchamians:** You may have noticed the new logo which is part of the new identity. Our intention is to introduce the design work across all communications and channels over the coming months.
- **To deliver a continuous monthly stream of communication that together is relevant to all members:** The event and magazine communications, along with regular posts by Colin Bamford and other Old Alts on Facebook have been great.
- **To further develop the Old Alts committee in order that it is even more relevant to our members:** We've now got representation from two AGSB 6th formers and two new Old Alts on the committee.

For the year ahead, I believe our objectives should focus on two areas in particular – an expanded committee to help broaden the reach of the Old Alts, and the continued development of our relationship with the school and its Alumni team. In full, the aims for the next 12 months are:

- To expand the committee – to have active representation of every decade from 1950's to 2010's
- To deliver monthly, relevant communication updates (not just event info) across web, email, facebook and linkedin.
- To deliver a sell out Annual Dinner that appeals to multiple generations of Old Alts.
- To encourage Old Alts to attend Arts events (Music, theatre) held at AGSB

So, after a period of challenge, I believe we have to embrace the fact that we are entering a period of change. As a committee we will ensure that we evolve the Old Alts in ways that are relevant to our entire membership. Having a more diverse and inclusive committee is of paramount importance in achieving that in the years to come.

All the very best to you and your family over Christmas and for the coming months ahead. I wish everyone associated with the Old Alts good health and happiness and I look forward to getting together again in 2023.

6. Treasurer's Report

Old Altrinchamians' Association Balance Sheet at 31 July 2022

	2022	2021
Santander current account	413.92	191.17
Santander deposit account	7,561.79	6,561.14
N S & I investment	1,639.20	1,639.04
Natwest current account		480.00
	9,614.91	8,871.35
Less Creditors		
Annual dinner monies paid in advance 25 x £30		-480.00
Net Assets		8,391.35
which is represented by Accumulated funds b/f	8,391.35	8,460.61
Add surplus for the year	1,223.56	-69.26
Accumulated funds c/f	9,614.91	£8,391.35

K J Webb
Treasurer

B R Clark
Auditor

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 July 2022

		INCOME	EXPENDITURE	
Subscriptions:-			S/O A G S - printing 2022 paid 3 Jan	150.00
Natwest:-	3 @ 25p	0.75		
	1 @ £1	1.00	Donation to Bracegirdle travel fund	250.00
	1 @ £2	2.00		
		3.75		
Santander:-	7 @ £2	14.00		
	203 @ £5	1,015.00		
	6 @ £10	60.00		
	1 @ £25	25.00		
Totals:-		1,114.00		
Donations:-				
Watson		30.00		
Shelmerdine		20.00		
			1,167.75	
Dinner raffle			455.00	
N S & I interest			0.16	
Santander interest			0.65	
Total income		1,623.56	Total expenditure	400.00
Excess of income over expenditure				1,223.56
Total		1,623.56	Total	1,623.56

K J Webb
Treasurer

B R Clark
Auditor

**Old Altrinchamians' Association
Annual Dinner 4 March 2022**

Income		Expenditure	
46 @ £30	1380.00	47 dinners @ £28	1316.00
		Gratuities	64.00
1 Guest:- Headmaster Graeme Wright			
Raffle income	455.00		
		Excess of Income over expenditure	455.00
Total	£1,835.00	Total	£1,835.00

K J Webb
Treasurer

B R Clark
Auditor

7. Headmaster's Report

As we return to more normal times, all extra-curricular clubs and societies are now up and running.

In October, we held a hugely successful House Music Competition and the first GCSE Prize Giving for 3 years - Roger Johnson from the BBC was the Guest of Honour.

We are now looking forward to the AGSB production of Les Miserable at the end of November.

We have had successful start to the year for AGSB sport.....

We have already had 65 sports fixtures to date across all sports. The 1st XI Football are currently undefeated scoring 34 goals and only conceding 11. They have had noticeable wins against Rossall School and most recently St Ambrose College in the National Cup 3rd Round. The year 7 side have had a similar strong run of form, having played five and won five.

All Hockey age groups are progressing nicely in the County Cup. Indoor hockey training has commenced in preparation for the North West finals later this term.

The U15 Rugby Squad recently beat Knutsford HS, to progress into the next round of the National Competition.

In Tennis our U15 team will be travelling to Sunderland in November having qualified for the Regional Finals.

After half term there is plenty more going on with the Basketball league starting, school badminton and table tennis competitions starting not to mention cross-country and swimming.

Finally, at the end of September we had our first Ofsted inspection for 15 years. We will find out the result soon.....!

8. Membership Secretary's Report

The 2022 leavers have now been added to the database which now totals 1532.

9. Editor's Report

The 2022 Magazine was published in early October (which is about the usual timing), and is now available on the Old Alts website, alongside historical editions stretching back to the 40s.

This is my final report as Editor, so I wanted to reflect on the key changes that have been implemented during my tenure, and look forward to what future Magazines might contain.

- Change of delivery method. In response to our increasing membership, escalating production and postal costs, and the increasing number of wasteful 'non-deliveries', the publication moved to on-line only. I think initially this was met with some disappointment from those who had previously enjoyed a physical paper copy, but I think has now been accepted as normal practice, a better use of limited Association resources and more sustainable into the future.
- Change of emphasis. As more Association news was made available on-line (website, social media, etc), the 'news-led' sections of the publication was becoming increasingly obsolete. I took the decision to gradually shift the emphasis to be more feature-led, and for the publication to create its own distinct identity as a source of ideas and articles.
- Change of name. In-line with the change of emphasis, the publication is no longer referred to as the Newsletter – now called the "Old Altrinchamians Magazine"

It is clearly for the future Editor to shape how he wishes the Magazine to develop, but I have tried to leave some useful 'tags' that I hope will generate future interest and become regular features. The 'School Bands' and 'Scouts' articles in the 2022 edition clearly have the potential to run and run – assuming that the new Editor can pick up interesting stories to continue these ideas. Dinner reports and sports reports also seem worth continuing. I sense that the 'obituaries' section should also continue as in many cases this is the only way many members find out about those we have lost, plus I think a sense of a formal record is appropriate too.

I have very much enjoyed my time as Editor. It has certainly been quite a time commitment but ultimately a very rewarding experience and I'm proud to have been able to play my part in keeping this august publication healthy.

I would like to sign off by thanking all those who have contributed over the years, and to wish the new Editor every success.

10. Football Section

Old Alts football club has managed to survive the last two seasons, which have been badly disrupted by the Covid pandemic. The league competition in 2020/21 was cancelled with only half the games played, however all games were completed in 2021/22. It took the 1st XI until their last match on 7th May 2022 to gain sufficient points to avoid relegation from the Premier Division of the Manchester League by the narrow margin of goal difference.

By the 6th March 2022, the 1st XI had gained just 8 points with 2 wins and 2 draws from their first 19 games. They then made a remarkable recovery with only one defeat in their last 9 games. It was a gritty performance with 3 wins and 5 draws enabling them to maintain their place in the top tier of the Manchester League.

The 2nd XI by contrast, finished comfortably mid-table with 10 wins, 6 draws and 8 defeats from their 24 games. The two vet's teams, playing in the Cheshire Veterans League were more successful. The Over 35s finished as runners-up in their Division and the Over 45s finished in third place in theirs.

The new season has brought new hope and new sponsors to the Club with two new kits being provided by the Manchester Indie-Rock Band, Goa Express.

Pride of place of scoring the first goal playing in the new kit was achieved by Old Boy, Will Morton, in the away match against Rochdale Sacred Heart on its first outing on 17th September. However, we had to wait a further two weeks for the first victory in the new kit, which was achieved on 1st October against Springhead when another Old Boy, Chris Richardson, scored the winning goal in a well-deserved 3 – 2 away victory.

The other three teams have all made a good start to the season and although only a few games have been played. They all remain undefeated.

The Club is holding A Belated Centenary Dinner on Thursday 17th November at Sale Rugby Club, Heywood Road, Sale M33 3WB. Tickets are priced at £45.00 and include a three-course meal. The evening will be compèred by Fred Eyre and entertainment will be provided by the very talented comedian and impressionist, Kevin Connelly.

Old Alts FC reached their centenary in 2020 but the celebration could not take place because of the Covid pandemic. I am pleased to report that the evening is already looking like a complete sell-out.

11. Golf Section

Chorlton GC was the host of this year's golf day (Thanks to Scott Meakin for organising/hosting). The format of this event seems to have settled on school matches alongside Old Alts/parents all playing together - a formula that guarantees lots of attendees and works rather well. A full house and sunshine greeted the intrepid golfers who enjoyed an excellent day at a very well-presented golf course.

Overall winner on the day was pupil Jones Barton, scoring 41 stableford points.

For the Old Alts there were 3 players on 38 points, so on a card play-off the top 3 were:

3rd - Christian 'lucky Jim' James

2nd - David 'not again' Stephens

1st - Scott 'my course' Meakin

12. Arts Section

In February 2022 the committee thought it would be worthwhile exploring the possibility of setting up an Arts/Culture Section. Initially this suggestion was put forward on the Old Alts Website, and expressions of interest were invited.

A small sub-committee met by Zoom over the ensuing months , and a number of ideas were discussed. It would be fair to say that as yet there has not been a great deal of interest but it may be worthwhile continuing with the exploration.

We have a new e-mail address for the section : artatoldalts@gmail.com and any interested Alumni are invited to contact Larry Bode.

The school has kindly agreed to offer the Old Alt members tickets for the school's forthcoming production (joined by students from Loreto and Sale Grammar Schools) of 'Les Miserables ' (22nd November to 25th November).These can be purchased through Eventbrite.

The website for purchase of tickets is:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/agsb-les-miserables-tickets-417862326467>

It is hoped that there will be good support from the Old Alts.

13. Election of Officers

Antony Perrett is not seeking re-election to the positions of Secretary and Editor

Secretary nominations is/are: Roger Moore

14. A.O.B.