

THE OLD LAURENTIAN SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary:

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Dear Fellow Old Laurentian,

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It has come round to that time of the year again and it only seems five minutes since I wrote to you but, as most of you will know, it is now that the President writes to invite members of the Society and their partners to the **President's Reception**. This being the third time that I have had to do the job, I am getting quite used to the task so, here goes:- **The Reception** is to be held at **Fenley Field** on **Friday 30th June** 2006 at 7.30 p.m. We intend to stick with the format from last year that proved so successful; a roast pig accompanied by lots of healthy salad and youth sustaining liquids. The attendance at last years President's Reception was the biggest for years and all appeared to enjoy the occasion. What was most pleasing was to see the number of recent School leavers present – a very encouraging sign.

Last year the **Annual Six-a-Side Cricket Competition** was revived; arrangements are progressing to repeat the event, provisionally on **Saturday 1st July**; if you are interested in entering a side, let us know via the Hon Secretary.

As usual, the **Founders Service** will take place during the School Weekend and is to be held in **Big School at 10.30a.m.** on **Sunday 2nd July**. If you wish to attend the Service, please check with the School (01788 542074) that it will take place at the time stated above. Your Committee, together with the School, has done its best to ensure that the tradition of the **School Weekend** continues. We are however alive to the fact that we must keep things fresh and are always open to new ideas, if you have any concerning the Weekend, or any of the Society's activities, bend our ears!

Attendance at the Annual Dinner in April was a little down on last year – this was due in some part to the fact that very few undergraduates had actually made it back to Rugby on the day. However there was a good mix again, not confined to one year group, but right across the age range. It was generally agreed that the evening was very enjoyable, despite the Hon Secretary doing his best to bore everyone to death with his speech, which was more like a social history lesson than entertainment. We have already looked at the date for the Dinner next year and the 14th April 2007 has been booked provisionally; this will give, hopefully university students time to organise themselves.

The bad news this year was that the Old Laurentians Rugby Club had failed to survive for another year in Midlands 2 – The encouraging part however, was the number of young players appearing at Fenley Field, this can only bode well for the future.

The state of the art floodlights the installation of which I reported previously, are quite impressive and have helped build contacts with Clubs and Schools in the area to a good degree. The official "Switch On" was marked by a tournament in which teams from all secondary schools in the area took part.

A modified proposed development by the School of Hart Field has also been turned down. This has again been very disappointing for the School and especially future students who must soldier on knowing that their facilities are inferior to those of practically everyone with whom they compete. The Society and Rugby Club have been doing what they can to help in that there have been senior rugby games played at Bilton and a lot of work has been done on the cricket square so that senior school cricket can take place – there have been several games played already. In addition, a considerable sum is being spent to ensure that our biggest asset – the pitches at Fenley Field stay in good condition. Even when life is uneventful there is always a lot going on – come along on the 30th and see for yourself.

Looking forward to seeing many of you over the School Weekend,

Kevin Mahon (1954 – 59)