



PRESIDENTS REPORT

To the Annual General Meeting of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association (MCOBA) being held at 17:00 on Tuesday the 25th of April 2023

It is my pleasure to submit my annual report of the President to the Members of the Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association and all College Stakeholders at this year's Annual General Meetings as required by clause 17.6 (a) of the MCOBA constitution.

At the outset I confirm, per clause 10.2, that my second term of office, being in duration of one year, is up and per clause 10.2, I make myself available for a third and final year of office, if this AGM so decides, when we address the election of newly proposed Executive Committee members per clause 17.6 (d) of the MCOBA Constitution.

Executive Summary

What a year 2022 was as we celebrated our 125th anniversary. Old Boys assisted with:

- Hosting and awesome [Reunion](#) for the first time in 3 years!
- Solar – **R2,5m** donated to keep the lights on in a “green” way.
 - R1,5m donated by the Maritzburg College and Old Boys Memorial Trust.
- A **R1,6m** multi-purpose car park on the terraces in front of Clark House with seating for 1500 boys and staff for outdoor events – R1,3m loaned from the Old Boys Memorial Trust.
- Committed **R300k** to fund [CollegeConnect](#) in 2023

I am pleased to report that MCOBA has been through significant changes that are bearing fruit but have not without their challenges.

Dr Melba Nzimande joined the Old Boys as of 1st January 2023 taking over as Operations Manager from Sue Buchanan-Clarke who served us so well. We said farewell to Sue on the 31st Dec 2022 and acknowledged her significant contribution in bringing so much seamless change to our operations, particularly in the digital space. All that said, I am very pleased to report I have convinced Sue to return and head up CollegeConnect on a permanent basis as from 1 April 2023. As such, Melba and Sue will certainly be our ‘dream team’.

Through our Executive team of Old Boys, we have been served and continue to be served by Old Boys who give of their time endlessly and who immerse themselves and their energy into serving College Old Boys and our school, College.

I am extremely pleased to confirm that Jon Hoatson has accepted the role of Vice President and this firmly removes succession planning risk for the Association which has plagued us in the recent past. Jon has worked hard and delivered into the key portfolio of “Membership and Participation” that he has led. His business approach to things will serve Old Boys very well not to mention his devotion to the “red, black and white” which clearly runs through the Hoatson family.

I had to note the formal resignation of our Treasurer, Mr. Rodney Klute, mid-way through the year due to the fact the PriceWaterhouseCoopers made a change to their internal policy that required their Partners to vacate posts such as these Honorary Treasurer (unpaid) roles for clubs and associations. This was disappointing as Rodney had served on the Old Boys as treasurer some years prior and brought a lot of knowledge to the team. That said, the decision to move to a new digital operating solution for our accounting function and to embed operations into the permanent position of our Operations Managers, Melba, has proved itself a good decision.

It is a real fact that as an Association we cannot remain dependent on Executive members to perform core operations that are delivered on a “best endeavor” and “unfunded basis”. It is the sad reality of the commercial world we now work in that “time is money” and large corporates make decisions at a centralised level that affects operations globally.

Whilst the position of Treasurer is formally vacant, I am pleased to note that Rodney is ‘operating under the radar’ and assisting as and when its needed but as noted below, with operations digitally serviced by Melba using: Dext, Xero (General Ledger) and Spotlight Management reporting, with support provided by OMNE Accounting and Tax, there has not been much need of our Treasurer. It must also be noted that Wayne Evans, the schools Commercial Director has the very important role of making online payments as required by our constitution which had not been happening in the past.

I am pleased to report that Maritzburg College Old Boys’ Association (MCOBA):

- is financially sound, as noted by the unqualified Annual Financial Statements tabled today and the clean Audit Report however it must be noted that a significant glitch in the new online payment gateway that went live in 2022 and the non-validation of online payments between the payee and payor banks (which should have validated when made), resulted in Old Boys missing out on circa R300k of old boy subs through 2022 which was very disappointing. This has been remediated so that it does not occur again and timely management accounts will highlight future risks and issues. (see below for more details on this)
- Continues to focus on its Objectives as set out in paragraph 5 of our Constitution.
- Is actively increasing its relevance to Old Boys as will be noted in this report but particularly in the use of WhatsApp and both “Class” and “Interest” groups now live.
- Has refined and validated focus on its core strategy for 2022, that is “having more events”, “driving relevance” and “bringing back the fun”.

There are a significant number of proposed changes to the constitution, the most significant item being proposed is that our AGM be held within 6 months of the financial year end and thus no later than 30th of June each year. This allows the standing committee to deliver on the annual reunion and then attend to an AGM and potential changes.

One submission for Honorary Life Membership has been received and is tabled for the AGM's consideration and approval as per clause 6.2 (b) 2 (c) of the MCOBA Constitution.

There is no special business issue for consideration at this AGM.

There are no proposed changes to the Auditor, being Andre de Valence (CA) SA of GC Ford Inc.

Operationally, detailed Service Level Agreements with College Business are agreed and continue to be delivered on with agreed Key Performance Indicators being monitored.

Through 2022, we had 678 paid up members against a target of 1566 and so under performed by 888 which is a significant concern and this is addressed in details below under finances. We are significantly grateful to the 16 Old Boys who paid Life Membership fees that significantly increased our revenues. What is clear is that the monitoring of membership needs to be at the granular level of membership category and cannot remain just a single grouped target.

It is very pleasing to see the huge numbers of paid-up membership from our retired Old Boys and the hugely successful, annual veteran days visits to College where a bus service is put on from Howick, appears to have reengaged our veteran old boys. This has been a core focus of my Presidency and I am extremely pleased to conclude that this has worked.

As of 26th February, there are: 32 paid up pensioners and 104 fully paid-up members which represents those old boys billed via direct debit. Billing for those members not signed up to direct debits will continue through March where a 1000 Old Boys are expected to pay. Further to this, all those Old Boys attending reunion who are not paid up, will be requested to become paid up members.

Significant Achievements

Through 2022, College Old Boys delivered.

Solar – R2,5m donated!

- R1m donated from Old Boys with a further R1,5m donated from the Old Boys Memorial Trust to the R100m appeal that is being applied to installing Solar energy that is powering the entire College campus.

This is just such a significant event, not only does it ensure College can now operate 24/7/365, with the endless load shedding now addressed, the environmental impacts are enormous and, in this day, and age, it's of fundamental importance we do everything to help our planet.

- Assets leveraged via the Old Boys memorial Trust have assisted College to deliver significant infrastructure this year:

- A multi-purpose car park on the terraces in front of Clark House with seating for 1500 boys and staff for outdoor events. The total cost was R 1.6m and the loan from the trust to assist was R 1.3m.
- A new food court and increased media centre facilities above the food court.

Our Central Business team, College Business, under the management of Kevin Smith (OC 1985) and our ultra-amazingly efficient Operations Manager, Sue Buchanan-Clarke, supported by Zinhle, Sally, Jenny and Chantal have been exceptional through 2022 as a significant amount of change took place.

- New, fully integrated website launched – have a look [MCOBA](#)
- New technology, branded “CollegeConnect” launched and is live [Maritzburg CollegeConnect](#) with over 1000 users.
 - This is a game changer for our College Community that has a vision to make Old Boys far more relevant in so many ways by:
 - Empowering career development,
 - Wealth creation via business-to-business opportunities,
 - Skills and resource sharing, and
 - Relationship building: networking and support
- Old Boys have committed **R300k** to [CollegeConnect](#) in 2023
- Event booking platform within College Connect including an [online payment platform](#)
- The delivery of a new WhatsApp solution to revolutionise how we communicate and create groups and communities, is launched. [What's App Groups](#).
- A revived newsletter returned through 2021 and continued to be refined in 2022 to meet the needs of Old Boys.
- Well attended AGM with a clean audit for the 31 Dec 2021 year end hosted on 10th May 2022
- Electronic debit order system implemented **but with glitches**

Events

Through 2022 we have hosted numerous events including but not limited to:

- Hosting and awesome [Reunion](#) for the first time in 3 years!
- Veteran’s Open Day including a tour of the school and a 3-course meal in Vic Hall
- Branch events across the country and abroad including: Zululand, Durban, Midlands, Highway, North Coast, Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg, United States (Texas) United Kingdom (London) , Australia and New Zealand
- Remembrance Day Service
- A matric Old Boys’ induction with a record number of 278 boys, being 100% of the 2022 matrics, inducted into Old Boys.
- Meeting and presenting into the Boarder community
- Old Boys Strategy Session hosted at the Victoria Country Club
- 100th Birthday visit to Mr. Pieter Swanepoel to recognise our oldest old boy’s milestone achievement / Birthday.
- Class of 1961 60th-year Reunion lunch hosted at the Hilton Hotel.

- Book launch of “25 Great South Africa Rugby Schools” in which Maritzburg College features; a chapter written by our own Matthew Marwick (Class of 1988)

Reunion 2023 and Upcoming events

Reunion is set for the 11th to 13th May 2023 and Old Boys looks forward to celebrating the school’s 160th Birthday which was on the 2nd March 2023.

A second golf day, hosted by the Goldstones club will be supported by Old Boys this year over reunion weekend, such was the demand for golf tickets last year that sold out in 15 minutes.

The Executive now role out reunion according to a very detailed planning timeline and hours and hours of effort go into planning.

Further to this, many other events have taken place and are planned to take place and they are listed below so that the extent of the effort of the Old Boys office and Exec can be clearly noted.

This aligns into our MCOBA Strategy which was refined, in an all-day strategy session held at the Kent Pavilion on the 15th October 2021.

| Date | Location | Description | Attendances |
|---|---|--|--|
| 17 th January 2023 | Alan Paton Hall | Boarder meeting with Old Boys, | The Headmaster The Exec HLMS Past Presidents Past Head Boys and Old Boys |
| 18 th January 2023 | Alan Paton Hall | School Assembly Full school address | The Headmaster Andrew Clayton |
| 6 th March 2023 | Erinvale Golf Estate Somerset West | Lunch with Mr. Keith Olivier | Andrew Clayton Mr. Keith Olivier Mr Rob Moll Veterans |
| 15 th April 2023 | Empangeni Country Club | Zululand Golf Day | Greg Nelson The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents The Exec |
| 21 st April 2023 | Underberg | Lunch | TBC |
| 21 st April 2023 (Friday night) | Pretoria (PBHS 22 nd April) | Branch Function Quin and Bull (Harlequin Rugby Club) | The Headmaster Eddie Ward Andrew Clayton |
| 28 th April 2023 | Stellenbosch The Courtyard | Branch Function Social event with students | Andrew Clayton |
| 16 th May 2023 | Kearsney Greyhound | Upper Highway / Hillcrest Branch | Herman Goslet Grant Little |

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|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Pre Kearsney vs. College | | The Exec |
| 11-13th May Reunion weekend | | | |
| 11 th May 2023 | Victoria Country Club | MCOBA Golf Day Secured by Trellidor | Andrew Clayton The Exec |
| 11 th May 2023 | Maritzburg Golf Club | Goldstones Club Golf Day | Richard Quin Grant Reed |
| 11 th May 2023 | Noodsberg Golf Club | Greytown Branch | Dieter Meyer |
| 12 th May 2023 | Barns | School Old Boys Assembly | The Headmaster The Exec HLMS and Past Presidents College Business |
| 12 th May 2023 | Collegians Club | MCOBA Bowls Day Bowled over by MeerCat Recruitment | Andrew Clayton The Exec |
| 12 th May 2023 | Alan Paton Hall | MCOBA Reunion Dinner | The Headmaster The Exec HLMS and Past Presidents College Business |
| 13 th May 2023 | College Chapel | Reunion day Chapel Service | The Headmaster Esther Howard-Browne & Family HLMs and Past Presidents MCOBA (President) The Exec |
| 13 th May 2023 | War Memorial | Reunion day Wreath Laying and Remembrance Flag Raising | The Headmaster MCOBA (President) The Exec HLMs and Past Presidents College Community |
| 13 th May 2023 | Wall of Remembrance | Wall of Remembrance | The Headmaster MCOBA (President) The Exec HLMs and Past Presidents College Community |
| 13 th May 2023 | Victoria Hall | MCOBA Reunion day lunch | The Headmaster + Headmaster of Westville Andrew Clayton The Exec HLMs and Past Presidents |
| 13 th May 2023 | The Kent | MCOBA Reunion Drinks post rugby vs Westville. | The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec HLMs and Past Presidents |
| 26 th May 2023 | North Coast | North Coast branch function | Pete Cameron The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents The Exec |
| 2 nd July 2023 | Brisbane | Lunch | The Headmaster |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 9 th July 2023 | Auckland | Lunch | The Headmaster |
| 21 st July 2023 | JHB (Affies 22 nd July) | Kent Park Taverners Wanderers Club | The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec |
| 18 th Aug 2023 | Zululand | AGM | Greg Nelson The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents The Exec |
| 11 th Aug 2023 | Mushroom Farm | Midlands branch | Grant Reed The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents The Exec |
| TBC | Tugela / Winterton / Bergville | Branch Function | Joe Culverwell The Headmaster The Exec |
| 26 th August 2023 | South Coast | Branch Function | Andrew Ralfe |
| To run in 2024 | Harding/Kokstad | Branch Function | Jim Payne Vaughan Gilson |
| TBC | Durban | | Wayne Huinink |
| 15 th Sep 2023 | London (UK) Rugby Tavern | Evening Function | The Headmaster UK Branch Committee |
| 12 th October 2023 | Alan Paton Hall | Induction 2023 (+- 280) | The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents The Exec College Business |
| 13 th October 2023 | Alan Paton Hall | Speech Day | The Headmaster |
| 17 th October 2023 | Vic Hall | Veterans Tour of College and Luncheon | The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents Veterans The Exec College Business |
| 19 th October 2023 | Kent Pavilion | MCOBA Strategy (all Day) | All Exec, Branch Chairs, HLMs and Past Presidents invited Steve Colenbrander Craig McKenzie |
| 20 th October 2023 | VCC | College Golf Day | College Business |
| 20 th October 2023 | TBC | MCOBA Christmas Party | The Headmaster The Exec |
| 21 st October 2023 | Victoria Hal | Presidents Lunch | The Headmaster Invited Guests HLMs and Past Presidents |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | | The Exec College Business |
| 11 th November 2023 | Wall of Remembrance | Remembrance Day ceremony (+- 100) | The Headmaster HLMs and Past Presidents The Exec College Business |
| 25 th Nov | Cape Town Water Front | Cape Town Branch function | The Headmaster Andrew Clayton The Exec |
| Events are booked here : https://www.collegeoldboys.com/events/ | | | |

Financial Affairs

Old Boys are in a sound financial position never minding the fact that the financial statements note a slight loss for the year of R31 371.

The following “cash and investments,” after a significant donation of R1m to the school solar, remained at year end.

- R798 019 in our investment managed by PSG and Finlaw
- R714 170 – Cash and Cash equivalents:
 - R538 829 in our bank account
 - Note: liabilities of R183 436 at year end have since been paid out of the bank account.
 - R95 696 in Corp saver account 1
 - R76 759 in Corp Saver account 2
 - R2 886 in Corp Saver account 3

A far more detailed budgeting process is operational and is being tracked to on a monthly basis using the new technology, Spotlight.

As noted last year, there has been a new system implementation for the Accounting function that has gone live through 2022 with the entire accounting process now digitized and this includes:

- Detailed Operating processes and controls with key segregation of duties.
- Digitized document storage of all invoices and an enhanced approval processes (DEXT) that feeds a
- New general ledger (Xero) which includes automated banking feeds
- Enhanced monthly management account reporting (Spotlight) that allows the executive to make decisions based on the financial information.

Disappointingly a significant amount of revenue, circ R300k, was not collected due to a glitch in the new online payment gateway. This was due to the validation failure of online payments between the payee and payor banks. This went unnoticed because the management accounts were not live until Nov 2022 and so bank reconciliations were not being performed. A manual list, taken off the payment gateway report proved to be inaccurate, notwithstanding many old boys tried to pay and indeed probably thought they had as they would not have

checked their own bank statements after the date of payment and notifications of payments were delivered to them.

Once this error was discovered, a huge effort by Sue Buchanan-Clark was undertaken to contact all these old boys who had attempted to pay from after reunion for which cash was never received. This error occurred from May through to October and was discovered in November 2022.

Many did then pay in November but not enough to meet the high target set in the budget. Most unexpectedly a significant number of old boys paid the “Life Membership” subs of R15000 which significantly over delivered on all budgeted expectations and helped “rescue” a very disappointing revenue year for College Old Boys.

This validation issue has been remediated so that it does not occur again and timely management accounts will highlight future risks and issues especially via the bank reconciliation that is now performed weekly via automated feeds of bank statements into Xero(GL).

Further to this, Old Boys details are now captured into Xero and they are billed via individual invoicing. An age analysis of unpaid invoices will note those OC that do not pay.

All that said, Old Boys remains in the hands of its members and would never overstep the mark in collecting subs. We remain mindful that this is all done on the generosity of loyal old boys and so debtors for subscriptions will always be written off and not ‘chased’.

I am truly blown away by the number of Pensioners who are paid up and then deeply saddened by the very few old boy staff members who are paid up. It’s clear, we as the Association have a lot of work to do to secure our old boy staff members loyalty. The undertaking at the Kent Pavilion to build out a restaurant and run monthly braais, where Old Boys have committed to funding the meat for those teaching staff present, is hoped to be one opportunity to build on this relationship.

Once again, the Association remains very grateful to the School for its support in billing parents the pre-paid student subs whilst learners are still at school. MCOBA is very aware of the significant resource usage that this is and the time spent by the College Finance department reconciling these figures.

These pre-paid student subs are recorded as income and are available for immediate use by the Association.

Budgeted Income

| | Actuals 2022 | Budgeted | % Against target |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Subs Membership – Full R450/pa | R174,442 388 | R654,750 1455 | -R480,308 -73% |
| Subs Pensioners R150/pa | 40,901 272 | R12,000 80 | R28,901 241% |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Subs College Staff R150/pa | 900 2 (paid full fee) | R3,750 25 | -R2,850 -76% |
| Life Membership (R12500 for 125th yr) | 260,000 16 (some over paid) | R87,500 6 | R172,500 197% |
| School - Pre paid students * | 332,800 | R300,000 | R32,800 11% |
| Total | R809,043 | R1 058, 000 | -R248 957 -24% |

Reunion Income

Financially this was very disappointing and far more accuracy is required in budgeting for reunion going forward. Notwithstanding a small profit of **R4 750** from the annual reunion and the fact the Old Boys does not, as a strategy, budget for the annual reunion to run at a profit such that the Old Boys depends on this in anyway, there were some financially disappointing results for which the errors have been identified and addressed going forward.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Bowls | R 16 400 (on budget) | |
| Friday dinner | -R 70 671 (off budget) | - Significant loss |
| Golf | R 58 991 (on budget) | |
| Sat Lunch | R 30 (on budget) | |
| Total | <u>R 4 750</u> | |

In a year in which significant membership revenue was not collected it has not been helped by two key errors in the delivery of the reunion where an overall profit of R60k was budgeted for and only R4k was recorded.

- Fixed costs were incorrectly divided by an expected attendance of 1250 when only 550 attended. This resulted in an under recovery of overheads from tickets sold.
- The bar ran at a large loss of **R31 003** and this was very unexpected and defied logic.
 - The vendor has been changed for 2023.

| Description | | Acc | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------|----------------------------------|
| Reunion Dinner ticket Sales | Other Income | 1520 | 180 210,32 |
| Reunion Dinner - Cost | Direct Costs | 2120 | (186 771,50) |
| Reunion Fixed Hire - Costs | Direct Costs | 2121 | (19 246,00) |
| Reunion Miscellaneous | Direct Costs | 2124 | (13 860,00) |
| Reunion Bar | Direct Costs | 2122 | (18 802,98) |
| Reunion Liquor Licence | Direct Costs | 2125 | (12 200,00) (31 002,98) Bar loss |
| | | | -70670,16 Over all loss |

It is clear that the Old Boys / the School / Goldtones club, requires a permanent liquor license so that expensive temporary licenses, that often behold one to a vendor, can be done away with. This is a key focus of 2023.

Maritzburg College Old Boys Memorial Trust

Mr. Sven Jager, Chairman of the Maritzburg College Old Boys Memorial Trust has provided a report on the financial affairs of the Memorial Trust which is tabled to this AGM and it talks to the healthy state of affairs of the Memorial Trust.

Operations

A new Communication Policy has been released and will be refined through the year. There remains the need to settle on what old boys desire from a suitable newsletter and then how content planning is undertaken to deliver into this. This remains a task for 2023.

The central service team, **College Business**, has lost a number of staff and there have been fundamental changes to reporting lines. It will be a testing year for operations but given Old Boys is not going through as much significant change as was the case through 2021 and 2022, I am confident that under the stewardship of Melba, who is settling into her new role very nicely, we will be well served.

Sam Paterson has joined the school as their **Events Manager** full time and no longer serves the Old Boys **Communications** portfolio which includes: Newsletters and Social Media.

Sue Buchanan-Clarke left to join a law firm but has since returned full time to head up College Connect which is very good news indeed.

Sally Upfold continues to head up College Marketing but has moved out of the College Business centre to sit more closely with the Headmaster and the team in the main administration block

Kevin Smith remains as head of College Business which is very demanding of his time, particularly in the fund-raising space and building and infrastructure role out.

Mathew Marwick continues to serve Old Boys on the Exec and addressed the Day Boy and Boarder Admissions. I am pleased to have Matthew to work with on this important aspect of College.

Jenny Baptista continues to support the technology and database needs of College Business but it must be noted she has moved to take over a role with the College Foundation and so her time allocation to our data base needs is limited.

Our Patron / The Headmaster

I record and once again thank our Patron and Headmaster, Mr. Luman, who so generously hosts us Old Boys on Campus and embraces all things “College” that are so dear to Old Boys.

This past years Reunion - Friday Assembly was incredible and the level Mr. Luman and his staff go to, to open College up to Old Boys and welcome us back to campus and show us our old school, is beyond measure. I cannot think of any other Alumni Association that enjoys this kind of engagement that allows its Old Boys to reconnect with their heritage.

Mr. Luman continues to be one of the biggest supporters of College Old Boys and when I listen to him talk, I often forget that he schooled at Wynberg. We have a very good working

relationship and I believe we have achieved much with so many more exciting challenges ahead for this, the School's ,160th year.

On behalf of the Old Boys, may I think Mr. Luman and the entire College Business team.

Closing

I would like to thank my entire Executive of 2022/2023 who have freely given so much time and supported me through this past year.

They have all owned portfolios and delivered into these. The Exec team has now been together for over a year and I believe this continuity and their appetite to take action, stands Old Boys in very good stead for the future.

I once again invite all College Old Boys, paid up or not, to contact me directly should you have any specific topics you want addressed or questions answered.

I look forward to seeing you all at Reunion in May.

Sincerely

Pro Aris et Focis



Andrew Clayton

Andrew Clayton

President MCOBA



Maritzburg College Old Boys' Association

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