

Old Stamfordian Club



JUNE 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dear Old Stamfordian

It was fantastic to see so many in attendance for this year's reunion, and we would like to extend our thanks to those who attended. A more detailed write-up can be read [here](#); however, it would be remiss of us not to also say thank you to all those who helped put on a truly wonderful day.

We hope you enjoy reading this update. As always, if you have any news, updates or memories that you wish to share with us, please contact us. Hearing the reminiscences of our Old Stamfordians is always extremely welcome and, with your permission, we would love to use some of these memories in our next annual OSC publication, as well as these monthly updates. Your contributions help us strengthen the bond within our community and ensure that the legacy of

Stamford lives on for generations to come.

We would also like to draw your attention to the section of the Chairman's report at this year's AGM regarding the Schools becoming co-educational in September. The Committee is currently working alongside the Alumni Relations and Development Team to create the survey mentioned here, so please look out for it when it arrives.

As always, please contact us if you require the assistance of the Committee.

With best wishes

[*The Old Stamfordian Club Committee*](#)

CONTENT

Click link to go straight to that section

- [Chairman's Report to AGM](#)
- [News](#)
- [Future Events](#)
- [Farewells](#)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO AGM

Chairman's Report to AGM

Following last year's AGM we enjoyed a splendid reunion weekend starting with the traditional lunch which was well attended by 65 members enjoying a couple of hours of light hearted discussion and good food.

This was followed by school tours in the afternoon and the touch rugby competition for the Andrew Carter Shield. The tournament was a rousing success with 14 teams from various year groups including teams from last year's lower and upper sixth form. The shield was won by the 2017 OS team. This touch rugby

tournament takes place again this afternoon with 17 teams participating so please make your way to the Upper Drift pitches to show your support.

This year has seen further collaboration with the Old Girls' Guild and the Development Office to promote sector groups for the benefit of both club members and current students.

Several successful events have taken place including one on medical careers and one focusing on legal careers. Old Stamfordians from these fields have attended in person and online giving parents and students an opportunity to ask questions of those with significant industry experience. An OS property networking event was also held in May.

There are many other sector groups and if anyone here would like to get involved in sharing their own professional experience please contact the Development Office.

Sport continues to be an important part of OS club activities with several successful golfing events this year, including a team competing for the Grafton Morrish cup against other alumni teams. My thanks to Neil Nottingham and Geoff Holyoake for their enthusiastic support for OS golf.

This year we also had an inaugural OS football match against Oakham. Organised and captained by Dean Cornish, the team was made up of OS members from 1993 to 2022. The result did not go our way this time but we are hoping to host an alumni tournament here at the school in the near future. My thanks to Dean for his efforts.

On another important subject, many of you will already be aware that the school is going through a period of significant change with the senior school becoming co-educational from September this year.

Your committee is fully aware of the importance of maintaining an OS community that is relevant and engaging and with this in mind we have decided to gather your views and the views of as many members as possible on how you would like to see the club develop. We will do this through a survey of the membership which we plan to circulate by the end of June. Your feedback will be collated and analysed so that we can understand what is important to Old Stamfordians and how our club can be best structured to deliver what the membership want.

I would encourage you all to respond to the survey when you receive it so that we

get as much feedback as possible.

The survey will be sent out electronically to as many members as possible and, as promised last year, we are confident that if we need the membership to vote on any constitutional changes the committee might believe are necessary, we will have a process in place to facilitate this.

Finally, I should acknowledge that at the chapel service this morning we remembered those club members who died during the year and our thoughts are with their families and friends.

In closing, I must say that I am proud to be the chairman of the Old Stamfordian Club and am sorry I cannot be with you for what I am confident will be another very successful reunion weekend.

Cam Park (OS 07), Chairman, Old Stamfordian Club

NEWS

Reunion 2023

We were treated to an outstanding weekend this year for our annual Reunion. Following a Chapel service led by Reverend Phillips and including a particularly rousing singing of *Jerusalem*, the formalities of the AGM swiftly led on to lunch.

Followers of both the School and Old Stamfordian social media may have seen recent posts regarding the new catering team at the School, Holroyd Howe. There was much anticipation if the food would live up to the expectations, and we are delighted to say it was exquisite. A delicious selection of food was enjoyed by a mix of over 65 Old Stamfordians and guests.



After lunch, tours around the school were as well received and popular as ever, and the joint event in the evening, a hog roast on Mainfields held in conjunction with the Old Girls' Guild, was enjoyed by nearly 400 Old Stamfordians. The Andrew Carter touch rugby tournament was won this year by a team of OS 2015, who beat their 2016 counterparts.



There are some photographs from the day [here](#), while in the evening [Shutterbox Photography](#) were on hand to take professional shots. If you attended the Reunion and have not yet received an email with details on how to access these pictures, please [contact us](#).

Our thanks go to New Lodge Farm and Adnams for the hog roast and bar, respectively, to the Development Office for their support of the event and, most of all, to all those who attended and made the day memorable.

Although Saturday saw the bulk of the events, the Reverend Tommy Wright Cup took place on Sunday 11 June. The cricket match involved the Old Stamfordians playing against Toilethorpe Park Cricket Club. After it was postponed last year, it was a welcome return, although the OS team was unable to get their hands on the cup, with TPCC winning in the last over.

Thank you to all those who played and helped to organise.

OS Football Report

On Saturday 20 May, an Old Stamfordian football team played it's first ever match against contemporaries from Oakham. Dean Cornish (OS 96) gives this report.

Probably my only regret of my time at Stamford School was that I'd never been able to play Senior football. I fondly remember playing casual football games on Upper Drift with the legendary Mr Morgan (ex Ipswich Town, so the rumours said), but after U13 had passed, there was no football played and definitely no inter school fixtures arranged. Always a shame, I thought, especially as there was so much sporting talent in the school. Maybe some of us could have 'made it' I often thought, before coming round from a speculative day dream. I was especially mournful recently when I saw a set of goalposts up on Mainfields. It's great news that Stamford now have a 1st XI football team. Just a shame it's 27yrs too late for me! Playing football on Mainfields would have been a dream!

So, when I first saw on the OS social media that we'd been challenged to a game by Old Oakhamians, I was of course very keen to be involved. As I still live in the area and play local Vets football, I thought I was in a good position to help organise a game, and so I offered my services to put a team together. After initial liaisons with Oakham, we managed to pencil in a date (May 20th). School Mainfields is of course given over to cricket in May, so we couldn't play at 'home', but luckily through local contacts, I hired one of the best 'other' pitches in the local area, Cottesmore AFC, which also happens to be equidistant between Oakham and Stamford.

So, it was then a case of putting a team together! As mentioned, I still know a few local OS lads who play football. The experience of Mike Ramm (OS 94) was a must in Central Defence, and when other old friends like Nick Redfern (OS 96), Josh Goodwin (OS 08) and Oli Easson (OS 08) agreed to also play, I knew we had a chance of getting a team out! Of course, we needed some young legs and when my wife reminded me that one of her old Old SHS friends, Ivana Knauer, had a 20yr old OS son (Alejandro Knauer) who loved football, I put a call in and within 10mins had 4 OS youngsters ready to run the Midfield! It took a while to find a keeper but thankfully someone reminded me that Jon Sewell (OS 93) was a keeper and thankfully he agreed to play and did brilliantly for us, just a year short of turning 50!

Amazingly, by the week of the event, we actually had 17 players and could have possibly got 20! I didn't expect that! Something else I didn't expect though was turning up an hour before kick off to see Oakham doing warm up drills and not

one of them looking over 23! I'm pretty sure their skipper had agreed that their team was 'mixed' when we were organising the game! Hmm...



So if I'm honest, I feared the worst, especially when Oakham started spraying the ball around in the first 10mins on a particularly warm day. The lads from Oakham played regularly together and it wasn't much surprise when they went 1-0 up after 20 minutes. It soon became 2-0 and I worried we could be on the wrong end of a hammering. Thankfully a good squad and some Stamfordian fighting spirit pulled us back into the game, Charlie Willis with a stinging shot on 35mins that the Oakham keeper could only parry to Josh Cothill who slotted home. We finished the half the stronger and going into Half time at 2-1, we were very much in the game.



Early in the 2nd half, we had a good chance to level when Josh Goodwin and Josh Cothill linked up well and almost equalised. Momentum was definitely with Stamford, but alas whilst pushing forward in search of an equaliser, Oakham countered and went 3-1 up despite the best efforts in defence of Ramm and Callum Worthington. In the last 10mins, Oakham scored 2 more to make it 5-1 and flatter the scoreline slightly, but in fairness, they did deserve the win.

The game was played in a surprisingly 'competitive' spirit, which was good to see and both sides enjoyed the battle.

Rivalries don't dissipate 30yrs after leaving school it seems! All the older lads enjoyed a beer though together after the game (Stamford's younger lads not as keen on a drink as we were aged 20, that's for sure!) and plans were already being put in place for a return fixture. All the OS side said they loved pulling on a jersey again to represent Stamford School, even if it's 20+ years since leaving. Next time though, I think I'll search out some more under 25s, if it's Oakham we play again!

Many thanks to the OS committee who kindly agreed to pay our expenses for the match, which was much appreciated. They were also very supportive in helping

us find players. Many thanks indeed. Let's hope it's a regular fixture. I hear other schools are keen to give us a game soon too. Bring it on!

Gap Year in New Zealand

With the assistance of a bursary from the Old Stamfordian Club, Will Baker (OS 22) is currently on a gap year in New Zealand.

Speaking of his experiences in New Zealand, Will has told us: "I'm really enjoying my time over here in New Zealand. I've been playing rugby for Waitemata Rugby Club U21s in the Auckland division. They are based in Henderson which is about 30 mins out of Auckland City. I'm really loving the rugby out here. It's a bit of a different game to home, it's a lot more physical and there is some very big boys; as you can see my match shirt is 2 or 3 sizes too big for me! But it's great as I am learning a lot on how to deal with bigger collisions and my way of carrying the ball into contact. I also love the culture of the rugby club. They treat everyone as one big family and the team is a brotherhood which is a great atmosphere.

I'm very lucky and grateful to have this opportunity to play rugby in the Southern Hemisphere. I have met some amazing people and am having some great experiences."



We look forward to welcoming Will back to Stamford and hearing more about his experiences in New Zealand and wish him the best of luck for the remainder of his time there.

OS Golf at Luffenham Heath G.C.

Old Pupils' Societies Salver : Friday 5 May 2023

This year Stamford was represented by (l to r below) Nick Glover, Neil Nottingham, Geoff Holyoake, Richard James, Martin Jaffrey and Robin Woodall.

A larger field of 7 Schools competed and with favourable conditions and a well-presented course scoring was always likely to be high. Although not enough to be 'on the podium' Stamford's combined score (from the two best pairs) of 77 points was only 6 behind the winners, Loughborough.



55th Championship Meeting : Saturday 6 May 2023

Unfortunately, the late decision from the King's people to arrange Charles III Coronation on the same day reduced the attendance to this year's meeting. However, despite intermittent 'damp to downpour' overhead conditions the course was in excellent condition.

The two highest scores of the day, 37 points, came from Geoff Holyoake and Martin Jaffrey, who won the McKenzie and Ferrier cups, respectively. Thus, proving that a few beers the night before are not necessarily detrimental to performance.

However, consistency is the key to overall victory and Neil Nottingham won the Whitby Cup with a combined score of 67 points.

John Cartwright joined the evening diners after returning from holiday earlier in the day.

Thank you to Neil Nottingham and Geoff Holyoake for these reports.

CCF LinkedIn Page

After to a request from our Old Stamfordian community, a LinkedIn page has been created for the CCF. Different to our existing military and armed forces page, the CCF page been created to share and celebrate CCF experiences and to also stay connected with any events in the future relating to CCF. [You can find the page here.](#)

There are a wide range of LinkedIn pages designed to connect and share resources, experiences and advice across a national and international network of Old Stamfordians. [The full list of pages can be found here.](#)

Find-A-Friend Requests

We have recently received enquiries about the use of SpedeNet as an alumni portal, including for viewing Old Stamfordian contact details. We no

longer use SpedeNet and, due to GDPR, no contact details from our alumni are in the public domain.

We do, however, have the [Old Stamfordian pages](#) on the School website which holds the latest news, publications and newsletters and [the online archives](#) for old photographs and magazine. In place of the OS details being online, if you are looking to contact a fellow OS, we have a [Find-A-Friend form](#) which is sent directly to the Alumni Relations team. They will be then be able to help with further with your enquiry.

FUTURE EVENTS

Fullbore Rifle Meet

Thursday 13 July 2023

17:00 hrs, 500 yards Century Range

Bisley National Shooting Centre, GU24 0PB

Teams of 5 and all kit provided if needed (for those who haven't shot recently).

All are welcome, and drinks will be held afterwards along with the prize giving. There will also be a dinner in North London Rifle Club.

Contact: [Phil Chapman-Sheath, Captain OS Fullbore Rifle Team](#)

OS Golf

Friday 25 August 2023 - Burghley Park Golf Club

Saturday 23 September 2023 - Luffenham Heath

Further information to be published in due course.

Boston Lunch

Saturday 9 September 2023

Boston and County Club, Park Gate, Boston, PE21 6RL

A bar lunch will take place at the Boston and County Club on 9 September 2023.
All are warmly invited.

Further details will be published in due course.

London Old Stamfordian Club Dinner

Wednesday 8 November 2023

The Royal Air Force Club, 128 Picadilly, London, W1J 7PY

The London Old Stamfordian Club will again be hosting the Annual Dinner at the RAF Club and invite all Old Stamfordians of Stamford School.

We request arrival for 6.30pm as we plan to hold our AGM beforehand.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to hold the dinner at such a fine venue. The hallmarks of the event have always been good food, good wine and in true Stamfordian tradition good company and stimulating conversation. The Committee are determined to build on what has been a very successful template.

A warm welcome awaits all Old Stamfordians wishing to join this event on Wednesday 8 November 2023.

Booking will open in due course.

FAREWELLS

We have been notified of the passing of members of our Old Stamfordian community, and wish to send our condolences on behalf of the OSC.

Christopher Birch (OS 62)

Paul West (OS 64) informed us of Christopher's passing in January 2022.

Our Archivist writes:

Christopher Birch attended Stamford School from 1959-62. During his time at the School, he was in Browne House. He participated in Cross-Country and was in the Senior Fencing and Swimming Teams. For the latter sport, he won the House Colours in 1962. He also played William Smithson in *The Old Bull* by Bernard Gilbert. Leaving Stamford School in 1962, he went on to attend Derby College of Technology.

Bernard Chapman (OS 63)

John Fletcher (OS 63) informed us that Bernard sadly passed away in May of this year. He writes:

While at Stamford School, Bernard was goalkeeper for the hockey team. After leaving School he attended the Peterborough College and then joined his father at Blackstone and rose to be Foundry Manager until they closed, when he became carer for his father. Upon his father's death. He spent his time doing crosswords and puzzles.

From the Archivist:

Bernard Chapman attended Stamford School from 1956-63. During his time at the School, he represented Radcliffe House in the 1st XI Hockey for which he won his colours. He also played in the 3rd XI Cricket and the School Tennis Team.

John Bigham (OS 64)

We were informed of John's passing by John Smith (OS 71). He writes:

John sadly died on 25/10/22. He was a good man and did lots of work to support sport in the Peterborough area, particularly cricket. He never sought publicity, never really got it and probably never got the credit he deserved.

His son, also called Jonathan, supplied the photo below, of the both of them umpiring at the Burghley Park Sixes in July 2018. He told me: "Dad was at Stamford School from September 1957 till July 1964. He was nicknamed Speedy

due to the fact that he would always finish in the bottom 3 of the cross country activity that happened during PE lessons. He worked in the Potato Industry as a Potato Merchant. He was involved in the trade and ran John Bigham Potatoes Ltd from for over 50 years before retiring from work due to ill health in July 2021."



[A full obituary written by Jonathan Bigham can be read here.](#)

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