



OLD BEDFORDIANS CLUB

Old Bedfordians Club – Strategic Plan – reviewed Autumn Term 2017

Background

Objectives of The Club

The objectives of the Club under Rule 1 of the "Rules of the Old Bedfordians Club" are:

1. To foster and maintain the relationship between alumni and to assist and support members in their careers and lives.
2. To maintain the bond between Bedford School and its alumni so that the development of the School, aims, and objectives are achieved.

The Requirement for a Strategic Plan

The Council is responsible to the members of the Club for establishing policy, approval of the strategic plan and monitoring and reviewing the management of the Club by the Executive Committee (Rule 9.1)

Review and present the strategic plan for the Club to the AGM (Rule 10.1.1)

Monitor the implementation of the strategic plan and approve the budget, investment policy and action plan submitted by the Executive Committee on an annual basis (Rule 10.1.5)

The Executive Committee is responsible to the Council for the day to day management of the Club and the implementation of the strategic plan (Rule 11)

Relationship with the School

In 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the OB Club and School. It is important to note that this partnership is designed to embrace the efficiencies of the larger school organisation without damaging the distinct identity of The Club.

The 2013 Strategic Plan

General

This Strategic Plan has been prepared by the Executive Committee for approval by the Council and for subsequent presentation to the AGM of the Club on 5th July 2014. After presentation to the AGM, the Strategic Plan will be distributed as necessary and will be published on the Club website. The on-going implementation of the Strategic Plan in detail is the responsibility of the Executive Committee and the permanent staff of the OB Club Office. It is anticipated that the Plan will be updated every three years unless circumstances require otherwise.

Funding

The Club's funding can be split in to two areas;

- The operational costs, which are funded by the School and administered as a standard School budget through the Bursary.
- The OB Club account. This is made up of those funds controlled by the Club prior to 1st April 2013 (the day of Club/School transition), and the subsequent income from investments and voluntary annual subscriptions. This account remains under the control of Officers of The Old Bedfordians Club. It will be used to support costs of specific Club activities as well as the Ousel (costs relating to the OB element for design, print and distribution).

Investments

The Club's investment portfolio is held by the Advisory Managed Service of Charles Stanley and Company Ltd (stockbrokers). The Club will manage the portfolio through its Finance Sub- Committee which will act on any of Charles Stanley's advice, which it considers appropriate, taking into account taxable gains implications, regarding the restructuring of the portfolio. Any action, including the placing of temporary surplus current account funds on interest earning accounts, is subject to the investment policy approved by the Council.

Bishop Memorial Fund

It is important to note that although the Club takes an interest in the Bishop memorial Fund, it is actually administered by its own specific group of Trustees. The Bishop Memorial Fund can be used to help OBs and their dependents who have fallen on hard times. The Club may donate to the Bishop Memorial Fund an amount up to ten percent of subscriptions received annually.

Communications

The Club will utilise all appropriate communication channels in order to ensure OBs of all ages and of all locations feel a strong sense of association and are aware of all of the events taking place. The Ousel, which remains the primary publication, will be distributed each December to those Members who elect to pay an annual subscription. The OB Review will be published in June each year and distributed to all Members.

The website will also play a key role in keeping OBs updated regarding Club and School news. Through the website Members only will be able to access a secure on-line Directory known as "Connect". This will allow Members, on an individual basis, to search for other Members by specific attributes, such as School years, profession, location and other contact details

Emails and E-bulletins will also be regularly sent out. The Club will always endeavour to strike the right balance between keeping Members informed and information overload. It is noted though that this may vary on an individual basis.

District Vice President (DVP) Network

The Club will promote the development of the DVP Network in both the UK and overseas. It will also work with DVPs to help them to engage with younger OBs and attempt to hold a biennial conference of DVPs at the School.

Sport

The Club will seek to expand sporting contacts amongst OBs and with the School by creating, supporting and encouraging the formation of OB Sports Clubs. The permanent staff of the Club will support individual sports, but the success of these Clubs largely depends on volunteers willing to put in time and effort. Where possible Committees should be established and succession plans put in place to ensure that sports go from strength to strength. All sports should have an annual fixture against the School. This is a very good way for current boys to meet OBs on an individual level, and to be introduced to the Club on a more general level.

The Arts

The Club is delighted that large numbers of OBs are actively involved with the Arts either professionally or as keen amateurs. For some, this was stimulated by their time at the School, but for others it may be a more recent passion. The Club will help to promote appropriate events to its Members and also identify opportunities to bring OBs together to share in the enjoyment of a particular concert, production, lecture or exhibition.

Younger OBs

The Club recognises the great importance of engendering awareness of the OB Club by younger OBs from the earliest possible stage, beginning with the final years of a boy's life at School. The Club presentation to all U6 leavers will take place in the Spring Term and the Head of School is now presented an OB Club tie at the final Assembly of the Summer Term. It is a great advert for the Club that OBs are now regularly back at the School giving lectures, hosting events or giving guidance on universities and careers. From an early age boys are made aware of the scale and benefit of joining the Old Bedfordian Club.

Careers

The Club will continue to organise and direct a Careers Fair each year at the School in the Spring Term. OBs and parents will be invited to prepare and man tables dedicated to providing information and advice on their own careers. The Fair will be open to attendance by pupils from the 5th and 6th forms of Bedford School, and Bedford Girls School. The Club will also look to develop other ways to assist boys and young OBs with career guidance and support. This may take the form of the London Business Networking Forum or OBs in a specific sector acting as a mentor for a period of time.

Events & Reunions

The Club will drive and deliver a full calendar of events, reunions and gatherings as these are really the "corner stone" in terms of engagement. Some may be general, while others appeal to a specific audience focussing on certain interests and activities. Whenever possible, a representative of the Club management will participate in reunions. The Club will continue to promote and organise year-group and House reunions at the School. An OB Club Annual Dinner will be held each Autumn. An Old Bedfordians Week will be held at the School each year in the last week of the Summer Term and will include sports and other events, culminating in the President's and Head Master's "At Home" lunch on the final Saturday which is open to all OBs and their partners.

Former Staff

Staff and their spouses often play a crucial part in the development of an individual boy. Many boys over their time at Bedford School forge a very strong link with certain staff. It is therefore vital that the OB Club actively engages with former staff as soon as possible so that they too see the Club as the way in which they can stay in touch with old friends and the School. OBs are always interested to see which staff members are attending functions and look forward to the opportunity of catching up and renewing their friendship.

Archives

The Club recognises that heritage and memories play a key part when it comes to association. As a result it will always endeavour to protect archives and historical items and attempt to share interesting facts and stories amongst the wider Club and School communities for their interest and amusement.

Branded Merchandise

The Club will ensure that any branded merchandise relating to the Old Bedfordians Club is both appealing and appropriate. It is important that colours and design are all of a set standard.

Lost Old Bedfordians

This term is used to describe those OBs that the Club has lost contact with or who do not actively take part in any Club activities. The Club will continue to try to reduce the number of "Lost OBs" and ensure that all receive a warm welcome at whatever stage of their life that they choose to engage with the Club.

**REVIEWED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN THE AUTUMN TERM OF
2017**