

Edlines

the newsletter of **Stourbridge Old Edwardian Club**
No. 8 April 2004

Its something approaching 6 years since our last series of newsletters were written and mailed to club members. Whilst we don't feel we can improve on the title of our newsletter, there have been numerous developments in the intervening years which more than justify this rather belated update. In addition of course, our social functions continue apace and hopefully members will welcome notice of forthcoming events. Full details of the social calendar are included in this newsletter. Please take time to read through these and try to attend as many as you can. The functions are held for the benefit and enjoyment of all members and so hopefully there will be at least something on the list to interest everyone.

New Era

November 2002 saw the rules of the club changed after 104 years allowing lady guests to be admitted to both the Memorial and Cooper rooms. Twelve months ago ladies cloakroom facilities were completed following which there has been a steady and encouraging increase in the use of the Club, for morning coffee, lunches and private functions, by members, their wives and guests. Some functions in the Memorial room can now also be attended by both male and female non-members and already there have been a number of private dinners and birthday or anniversary parties even a funeral wake !

All this has been achieved now without noticeable inconvenience to our male membership.

New Stewards

At the time of our last issue, we were welcoming the arrival of new stewards and once again it is appropriate for us to welcome Gerald and Julie who took over as our new stewards nearly three months ago.

It is true to say that they have made an excellent start. We have received lots of positive comments from our members, particularly about the catering an area which they are both keen to develop in the future.

Soon after their arrival they produced comprehensive menus for lunch-time bar snacks and sandwiches which many members and their wives have enjoyed in the Cooper room. Now there is also a standard evening menu for members and their guests. Good food at a very reasonable price, and we all benefit - the stewards, the club and ultimately therefore, the members. We hope that as many members as possible will take advantage of these facilities and of course individual menus will still be available for pre-booked functions.

Our new stewards are keen to promote this new activity and the initial functions already held have been a great success and most enjoyable. We do hope that the new arrangements will enable us to make much more use of our premises in general.

There is no need to pre-book at lunchtimes although a telephone call would be sensible to check availability for an evening meal.

Building Works

New initiatives in the last few years such as the 50 Club and income from letting car park spaces, has resulted in financial surpluses for each of the last three years. This is a splendid achievement in the face of a gradual declining membership and testimony to the sensible decisions and hard work by the committee. Members will be aware however that our flat roof over the snooker room has been a constant problem in recent years and so the decision has been taken to replace the existing roof with a pitched roof. Work will start early in April and last for approx 6 weeks at a cost of circa £25,000.

Although funds are available to cover the full cost of the work our reserves will be substantially depleted so an appeal to members will be made, to replenish the coffers, next month.

We are grateful to the late Jim Homer for a generous legacy of £2,000 and at the moment, the committee are considering exactly what the donation will be used for but it will certainly help to kick-start the forthcoming roof appeal.

Forthcoming Social Activities

**All the functions in the Club House listed below are for members and their male guests only
Other functions for mixed company are in preparation.**

Friday 23rd April St. George's Day Dinner, 7.15 for 7.45

A four course dinner followed by a celebration of England and English in prose and poetry. A wonderful evening with a mix of selections to suit all. **Reservation** form is on Club notice board.

Wednesday 28th April Social and Snooker with guests the Old Foleyans

**Friday 14th May An Evening with Dennis Waters
Reminiscences of KEGS 1940 - 1980**

A special evening with guest speaker Dennis Waters who taught a great many of us. There is a £5 per head charge to cover buffet supper and raffle. Pre-book your place(s) using the enclosed booking slip.

Monday 17th May Centenary Founders' Dinner

Details and booking form will be circulated to members in due course

Saturday 19th June Charter Day Luncheon

This historic event commemorating the granting of the Charter to the School in 1552 still continues at SOEC. The reservation list will be exhibited on the notice board at the end of May.

Tuesday 22nd June Charter Day Service, St Mary's Old Swinford, 7.00pm

Wednesday 7th July Annual (Charter Day) Cricket match. Old Boys v College

This match will be held at the War memorial Ground Amblecote at 14.00hrs. Both teams will be entertained at SOEC in the evening. All members and supporters welcome to match and supper.

Other Dates for the Diary

Friday 20th August	President's Ladies Night at Stourton Park (SRFC)
Thur 9th September	Quiz Night
Friday 8th October	Annual Dinner
Thur 21st October	Trafalgar Dinner
Mon 25th October	Agincourt Dinner

Contact Details

Evening Meal Availability	The Stewards - Gerald or Julie	01384 395635
Memorial/Cooper Rooms Bookings	Hon. Sec - Clive Bowen-Davies	01384 372446

**An Evening with Dennis Waters
Commencing 7.30pm**

I (we) confirm that I shall attend this special function on Friday 14th May.

Cheque enclosed for places @ £5 each Total £

Name(s):

Contact telephone no.