



## King Edward Old Boys Association

Good day Old Boys and Friends of King Edward VII School,

Reflecting back on this year, with 2015 being described as one that cemented our foundation and one where the Old Boys Association (OBA) brings Old Boys and Friends of King Edwards together, 2016 is a year where we were able to build on from this established base through investment, innovation, and introductions.

### Investment

During this year the Association decided that it would commit to various infrastructure investments in support of the King Edward Educational Trust (KEET). These included a donation of R100 000.00 towards Educator residence and R250 000.00 towards flood lights for the Astro Turf. The Association saw value in both of these projects and believe that they will aide in the retention of good quality staff at the School and the improved use of the Astro for both the School and the Old Edwardian Society's Hockey Club. The proposal was initially put forward due to the turbulent economic conditions experienced earlier in 2016 and a large amount of the Association's capital tied up in investment accounts; thereby putting this amount to better use. Fortunately, revenue collection for 2016 (mainly from subs) continues to be robust with a projected consecutive year on year increase. This has allowed us to use the collected amount to fund these donations and I am confident that the Association will break even come December without accessing its investments.

The OBA has continued with its standard investments and will hold to its commitment to furnish 2 King Edward gentlemen with bursaries. One of the recipients matriculates this year, and a new boy will be identified and selected by the School to receive the bursary next year. Further to this the Association ensured that the Old Boy Reunions for various years took place and we were kindly joined at King Edwards by Old Boys from the years 1986, 1996, 1991, and 2006 on Reunion Weekend as well as a very well supported group of 1956, 1966, 1976 and 1981 reunion groups over the Armistice Day weekend. Thank you to all of the Old Boys who returned back "home" for their reunions. Below is a small extract received from one of '76 Old Boys that sums up the special bond that still exists between us and our alma mater, even 40 years on:

"Go back to the School and feel the spirit. It is almost tangible... Don't have regrets - go back. To be back was a privilege."

To ensure continuation and to build on the platform already established by the Association, the regular annual events also took place in 2016. The first of these was the (now) annual OBA Polar Bear Swim which is specifically aimed at raising awareness for Graeme Parsons efforts to chance the English Channel again and to carry on raising capital to upgrade the School pool area. The swim was well supported, with Old Boys being joined by the MAD Swimming Club as well as a couple of the King Edward rugby teams. This was followed by the annual Gaudy Day fixture, where an Old Boys rugby side returned to the field to face our traditional foes down the road. While the OBA Team made tough work of this game, they managed to show true grit and come back from being 19-5 down at half time to win the fixture 26-33.



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In September the Association provided support to KEET with the organisation of the UK Annual Golf Day and Dinner which was hosted at the very traditional Malden Golf Course. This event will continue to be a yearly opportunity for Old Boys to get together and enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie experienced far away from home; we encourage those based in the UK to attend and support this event in 2017. Ironically, while the UK Golf Day went ahead, the annual Association Golf Day was cancelled due to the extreme wet weather conditions experienced in Johannesburg. Sadly the localised flooding left the course unplayable, and with the event taking place late in the year, unfortunately there was no option but to postpone this to next year. However, I am confident that 2017's Association Golf Day will definitely make up for not being a fixture on the calendar this year.

### Innovation

While the OBA focused on ensuring continuity into 2016 there was also an opportunity to use the established platform as a springboard to add to the calendar for the year. More emphasis was placed on creating opportunities for Old Boys to get together and socialise in an environment that is representative of the Red spirit. The Association made use of sporting events to do this. While this is deemed somewhat of an easy win, more emphasis will be placed on balancing these opportunities and will include a wider range of events going forward. This year saw the OBA enter a cricket side into the Old Boy's Cricket Sixes competition, a rugby side into the Old Boy's 10's, and a cycle team into the 94.7 Cycle Challenge. In addition to these the OBA also hosted a long overdue Old Boy Gathering in Cape Town which was well supported by the community based in the Western Cape and even included a cameo appearance from Scarra Ntubeni. Going into the new year the Association would ideally like to entrench these events as annual opportunities for Old Boys to celebrate King Edwards. In addition to these I am confident that the OBA will likely add a visit to Durban/Kwa-Zulu Natal as well as an opportunity for the newer Old Boys to come back to the school and enjoy a quiet "Beer with the Boss".

### Introductions

Part of the Association's strategy is to be more inclusive of the newer Old Boys; who tend to part ways with the School after matriculating. 2016 marked the first time that an Old Boy tie has been officially introduced into the community of Old Boys and Friends of King Edwards. The tie was selected as the item which will show others that the holder is a King Edwards Old Boy. On completion of their final exam the matric group of 2016 were hosted for a light breakfast and welcomed into the Association. Each boy was presented with a tie which they were allowed to wear for the remainder of the schooling year. As chairman, while I was unable to be there, I would like to add a personal welcome to the class of 2016 - Congratulations on successfully navigating your way through high school at one of South Africa's most prestigious institutions, we look forward to seeing you continue with your involvement with King Edwards and to open a new chapter in your life with the Old Boys Association.

Looking back at the year that was, I believe that the Association is making inroads into ensuring that as part custodians of the King Edwards legacy, we "keep the Red spirit glowing" and that we "keep the Red spirit growing". All of the above would not have been possible if it was not for the regular



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contributions made by Old Boys and friends of King Edwards. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for consistently and continuously contributing to the cause. We are always humbled and grateful; as I have mentioned before, Old Boys are the lifeblood of any school and King Edwards is a sleeping giant waiting to be awakened! To my peers on the committee, thank you for your commitment & contributions in 2016; especially with your willingness to be open minded, positive, and engaged. A special thank you to Anne Vilas for providing kit for the OBA rugby side and cricket balls for the Cricket 6's, Brian van Buuren from ITR for sponsoring the 94.7 Cycle Challenge team, and Rudi Keil for organising a Fight and Dine. Lastly, a big thank you to Derron for continually putting your heart and soul into ensuring that the Association continues to make strides going forward and remains a success.

I look forward to a successful 2017, where we continue to build and move forward, create a more inclusive community, strength relationships with the School, Old Edwardians, and KEET, and deliver value to the Old Boys and Friends of the Association.

Kind regards

**BYRON LEGGETT**

**CHAIRMAN**