



Burton Grammar School OBA

1921 – 2020



President's Letter – September 2020

To all members of the BGS Old Boys' Association,

Old Boys whose death has been notified since the 2020 newsletter:



Bryn Meyer, Graham Barnes, John Fellows, Dennis Payne, George Wigley, D.Thornton and William Strong. The latest member who has died was Malcolm Watson who always supported the Association annually at the Abbot Beyne School Memorial Service in November and was a regular attender at the AGM and Dinner. He also very kindly presented the hardwood case for the Association's Chain of Office and Gavel.

There are two main issues that we currently have to address this year:

1). The cancellation of the 2020 AGM and Dinner. The Covid 19 situation has meant that the new owners of Branston Golf and Country Club can only accommodate a maximum of 30 people at any event. The other activities planned weekend are also now unavailable. The Burton Club is closed at present and we cannot take responsibility for the member's safety at Sinai Park House bearing in mind our member's age profile. These are the main reasons behind the committee's decision to cancel the Dinner and the other activities, which were postponed from May.

2). The proposed closure of our Association.

If you recall that at the last two AGMs (2018 & 2019), the committee informed members they felt the May 2020 AGM was an appropriate time to officially close the BGSOBA.

The reasons for this were based on the following;

- a). There is an obvious decline in the numbers of Old Boys attending the AGM and Dinner.
- c). The Association's financial position is consequently affected by falling numbers.
- d). The present Covid 19 situation does not bode well in the short term for any future activities.

Since the 2020 AGM did not take place, the committee are aware there may be differing views on closure held by the members, so we are asking them to vote on the enclosed ballot form. If the majority of the returned votes do not support the committee's proposal, all the Burton-based members decided to resign *en bloc* in October 2020. This means the members wishing another outcome would have to form a new committee to fulfil all the specific conditions within the Association's rules.

The enclosed ballot paper or emails should be returned to the secretary by the 9th October 2020. If the result of the ballot is to support the committee's proposal there will be another committee meeting at the end of October 2020 to close our Association formally.

Any remaining funds will be given to the Association's archivist Mr Robert Andrews to safeguard for the future which are housed at the Burton Club in the Abbey Building and will be permanently available for Old Boys to view and enjoy by appointment.

The Committee are also considering the retention of some funds to provide for a wreath at the Annual Remembrance Service.

The committee would like to make clear that the closure of the official BGSOBA does not affect the mail Newsletter sent out by Mr Eric Bodger, which will continue for the immediate future with news and content supplied by members. This will be sent to all who have stated they wish their email addresses to be retained. Other existing informal contacts will continue via various forms of social media which are currently well supported.

I hope this letter gives a clear picture of the position of the BGSOBA and the efforts of the committee. I would like to thank them for their work and support and Mr Eric Bodger for his dedicated work with the newsletter.

It has been an honour to carry out the duties of the President for our Association and meeting many of its members.

John A Taylor

President BGSOBA