

# Club Connexion

WINTER 2009

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE RETURNING MEMBERS OF THE 16 CLUB

## College 16 (Dave Brits - Chairman College 16)

The College 16 have been going well recruiting new members and potential members. Last academic year was another successful year under Francis Osborne and he has handed over the reigns to Dave Brits for this year. They have held dinners every term with a usual attendance of 20 members and potential members.

On the 5th of December 2009 the College Sixteen hosted its Michaelmas term dinner at the Falcondale Mansion Hotel. The College Club was pleased to welcome twenty-eight diners, of which 8 were prospective members. We are very pleased with the unparalleled choice of exceptionally suitable gentlemen available to us this year and can only see the Club growing as we seek to create a steady and healthy number of collegiate members.

The guest of honour was the esteemed President of the University, Dr. Brinley Jones, a man of unsurpassed dignity and possessed of a fantastic sense of humour. He was most impressed by the company and expressed his deep-felt thanks for being invited and honoured by the Club. A good time was had by all and the dinner received very favourable comment.

The Chairman, Executive and College Club would like to thank all those Redentes who made the time to grace us with their presence, especially Mr. Royston Evans Price who spent his birthday in our company. The success of the dinner rests largely on the contribution of the Redentes in making our prospective members feel at home and thus engendering a sense of inclusion.

## Club Accounts

At the AGM it was agreed that the College Club would receive £260 across the academic year for the provisions of Port and cigars as well as helping out with dinners.

## 16 Club on Facebook

The Facebook group for the club is still running strong. Latest events are posted on it by the College 16 as well as various discussions. To get access please search for me (Andrew Holdsworth) as a friend (you have to be on Facebook first) and send me a message asking me to add you to the group.

## Contact

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## Returners – May 2009

Returners was well attended this summer with a good number of Returners turning up for the weekend from far and wide, with a special mention to Alex Rylance who visited all the way from the USA. During the day on Saturday College and Returning members took it in turns to go and try their hand at a spot of clay pigeon shooting and with beautiful weather we had some rather mixed results with some gentlemen excelling in the sport and others hitting a good few clays (it was your RMO, I believe, who was shockingly last by a country mile due to freak winds whenever he shot!). It was good to be blessed with fantastic weather for the entire weekend for yet another year. Both the College 16 and the Returners held their AGM's before dinner with conversation in the Returners AGM particularly focusing on the merger between Lampeter and Trinity (notes of the AGM are on the reverse of your Connexion). Gentlemen then headed to the Kings Head for a fine dinner and wine.

Over 20 gentlemen enjoy dinner with some good hearted conversation and a large dose of port, cigars and snuff followed dinner. Gentlemen made their way down to the Union to enjoy a spot of 'dancing' and some post dinner beverages before gathering to tackle the mound and continue the festivities. The mound was scaled by many a brave 16 to fill the valley, with singing comparable to that of a Welsh Male Voice Choir, with a few hymns and of course the Club song. Some felt the need for a quick dip in the fountain to show of our swimming skills to others and demonstrate how good welsh water is for you. The evening ended with a final gathering around the bench to finish beverages and to reinstate a tradition that Mr Rylance remembered from his time as a college member. This involved a lap of campus in the traditional running gear of underwear, 16 ties, socks and shoes. A couple of laps of campus were completed (in different directions) before gentlemen enjoyed a final drink and took to their beds for a well earned rest.

## Peter's Bequest

The plan is still to hold a celebration for the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the club in 2011.

## Returner Ties

I still have pure silk ties for sale at £10 each. They are a darker, more vibrant blue than the old ones and have 'Redentes' underneath the goblets. If you would like one please let me know send me a cheque (payable to: *The 16 Club – Returning Members*) or cash to the address below (and the address it is to be posted to).

## and finally...

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas. I hope you have a very enjoyable festive season and the New Year brings you more happiness. I look forward to seeing many of you in Lampeter for Returners and hopefully Banbury before.

Please inform us of any address (postal or email) change so we can keep in contact with you. This can be done through the excellent website or by contacting myself or a member of the executive.

If you are aware of any members who are not in touch with us then please pass on our details to them or theirs to us. We are always on trying to get in contact with old members.

## Minutes - AGM - 23rd May 2009

**1. Connexion** - The RMO apologised for still not having produced a Connexion, technical problems has restricted his ability to do this. I make the promise again that one will be out by the close of the year.

**2. Future of the College Club** - Since the future of the college has now been finalised it was decided that a discussion was needed to discuss how the College Club would fit within this new set-up and what it meant for the 16's. It is noted that the Returning Members were pleased that a decision had finally been made over the future of our beloved college, although the decision to merge with Trinty may not have been the number one choice for many of us the College at least we now know the path it is set to follow and has a basis from which to take itself forward. The Club will continue by its principles and support the College Club as we can and as we have - we see no change in this. The 16's Club, both College and Returners, would continue to recognise Lampeter University as a separate institution for the purposes of the Club. In this respect we therefore standby what has been said in that *'The Returning Members of The 16 Club exists to support both The 16 Club at Lampeter and to render what help and support that they can provide to The University. It is a society of mutual assistance and friendship, which dines together in the time-honoured customs of The 16 Club.'*

As for a sister club in Trinity it was felt that whilst we would not object to anything like this it would not be for the Returners to fund however verbal assistance could be offered if approached. It was thought that should a Club in Trinity be formed with the same principles as the College 16 then maybe links could be made but these links would be only links and there was not to be a 16 Club Lampeter and 16 Club Trinity that are one and the same bar location. An idea raised was that if a club in Trinity, with the same purpose, values and traditions, was formed then, once a year maybe, a joint dinner could be held to build a relationship between the two clubs (and allow our College 16 access to the ladies of Trinity) however the clubs would be separate. All members at the AGM agreed with this approached and raised the importance of keeping the 16 Club a Lampeter affair.

**3. Funds** - The savings account stood at £26,052.47 in May 2009 and the 16 Club Returning Members account is £905.66 as at April 1st 2009. It was agreed that the club funds were in a healthy state and thanks given to John Skinner and Rob Rosset for looking after these matters, the financial world has not helped us make a huge profit but it is worth noting that we have more in the savings account than when we started and we have used some of the money for new ties (still available from your RMO) and college matters. This year there was no big discussion on how funds could be spent although it was again agreed that a big 40th celebration would be needed and hopefully Old Hall would be the venue. From records this would be dinner in 2011 and the RMO would love for it to be on the 11th June, however we will have to wait for College dates before we can finalise this. It is envisaged that it may have to be a couple of weeks prior to this date.

**4. Executive of the Returners** - were nominated and received full backing of all members present at the AGM.

RMO - Andrew Holdsworth

Lord Registrar - Rob Rosset

Keeper of the Purse - John Skinner

Keeper of the Electronic Abacus - Stuart Tilley

## **5. College Matters**

The College Club have had another successful year under the guidance of Francis Osborne and his very useful and helpful executive. A College Bank Account has been set up which eases the arrangements for dinner and finances of the Club. Looking forward it was agreed that the current members make an excellent group of fine gentlemen and the new and potential members, we are confident, will carry on the fine traditions of the Club. The College Club look forward to another fine year under the leadership of Dave Brits, a fine fellow who will lead the Club with the full backing of the 16 Returners. There is a desire from the College Club to broaden their dinning locations (which unfortunately are less than during any of our days).

It was agreed that the College Club would receive the following allowance for dinners this year to help with the burden that buying Port and Cigars brings along with a little extra in the final term to help with the costs of Returners. These payments will be £80, £80, £100. This is an increase on last year and, although not substantial, should cover the costs that the club incur. It was noted that it is harder to have a meal in these modern times for £16 a head along with the small additional cost of wine. The money is to be used as the College 16 see fit although receipts are wholly welcomed!

**6. A.O.B** - It was noted that attendance of the 16 Club at Founders Day and St David's Day Dinners was good to see as an addition to the normal dinners but should not replace dinners.

Thanks to Mr Gilson who, whilst on his travels in the East, brought back some lovely cufflinks. Unfortunately this offer was available on Facebook (due to the lack of technical ability in the East and time spent wooing locals) and done in a extremely short amount of time hence unfortunately not available to many of us but thank you from those who have them.