



H.J.S. - Paarl - B.H.S.

OUDSTUDENTE-UNIE ~ OLD BOYS' UNION



Dear PBHS Old Boy

It is our privilege to be involved with PBHS as representatives of a few thousand old boys.

We would like to share important information with you.

During the past few years the OBU has undergone some drastic changes in order to remain relevant in these changing times.

Boishaiers expect the OBU to be dynamic and to set our union apart from mediocrity. After all, as Boishaiers, we are accustomed to expect the best of each other!

The participation and involvement of Boishaiers make a positive contribution in a negative world. Eventually the school, the current and future generations of learners are the beneficiaries of our collective effort. We are all acutely aware of challenges that our country (and the wider world) are facing. It is precisely these challenges that make the OBU's role and activities worthwhile!

It is noteworthy that Boishaiers yearn to stay involved with their Alma Mater. The OBU is a **service organization** to the old boys and provides a **mechanism for old boys to become and stay involved with their Alma Mater in a structured way.**

The OBU's threefold roles:

1. **Positive motivator** - Boishai is part of old boys' DNA. Each old boy in his own particular way is proud of his association with the school, curious about what's happening and disappointed by poor performance and behaviour.

We may not all agree on the state of affairs or a certain issue, but the key is that we **stay involved and we express our support (and criticism) in a positive way**.

2. **Financial Support** - The OBU supports the school financially. The school has its own budget, but a school such as Boishai always needs additional funds in order to be a leader, standard bearer and a centre of excellence. The OBU aims to involve **more old boys. The philosophy is simple: many old boys making a small financial contribution on a recurring basis**, rather than individuals expected to make major contributions. **We believe that the multiplying effect of mass participation is the correct funding model for the future. It still allows the opportunity for individuals to make larger contributions.**

We also realize that old boys who make a financial contribution expect good stewardship. **Our promise to our members is transparency and full disclosure.** We have recently (in collaboration with the school) decided that all fundraising projects be audited. Members must be assured and know that their contributions are used to benefit Boishai. **No person at the OBU or school earns commission or fees on any donations or contributions!**

3. **Protector of history and traditions** - It is important that the school values the inputs (positive and negative) of old boys. We are grateful for a good relationship between the school and OBU. Furthermore, the school creates ample opportunity for the OBU to give input on issues that are important old boys. We do not have to agree on everything with the school, but the principle is that our input is structured and debated through the correct channels.. The fact that 17 matriculants last year were 2nd to 4th generation Boishaiers is reassuring.



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Are we naive? Possibly. Are we idealistic? Definitely.

The purpose of this letter is to share information with Boishaaiers and to spell out exactly where and how you can become involved. We ask you to join in what the OBU is busy with.

1. **Information:** visit www.paarlboyshighobu.com for the latest news, reunion information and other activities.
2. **"The Galpil":** our official newsletter distributed in May and December . A copy of the latest issue is on our web page.
3. **Office:** The OBU has a beautiful office at 232 Main Street Paarl. The museum is also situated here. We wish to invite you to visit the office and museum, if you have not done so yet. Please bring your wife and children along. Maybe they will then understand your loyalty and passion for Boishaai better after the visit!
4. **Staff:** We have two full-time office workers. They are responsible for membership matters, correspondence, marketing and the organization of OBU activities.
Francina van Rhyn - 021 872 2835 / info@paarlboyshighobu.com .
Esme du Toit - 072 226 2366 / admin@paarlboyshighobu.com .
5. **Activities:** The OBU is also responsible for several functions and events throughout the year.
Father and Son Tie Presentation - In October the OBU hands out old boy ties and membership cards to matriculants who have joined the OBU. It has become tradition that the 20-year reunion groups are the patrons of this function in conjunction with the OBU.
Staff Function - The OBU hosts the high and primary school staff and spouses during the year-end function.
Interschools – During the week of Interschools the OBU is involved with several activities.
Monday - US students have a beer or two with the teachers and the OBU management in Stellenbosch. **Wednesday** - Old Boys' rugby, **Thursday** - Old Boys' golf, **Friday** - Big Brag.
6. **Reunions:** The OBU office plays a big role in organizing reunions for the respective year groups. Esme du Toit helps with the identification and booking of venues, catering and accommodation.

Membership, subscriptions, donations and bequests

The OBU is dependent on membership fees in order to fund our activities.

Until the end of 2011 membership costs were an entrance fee of R500 and R150 per year thereafter.



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New membership fee structure effective from January 2012:

New members will pay a once-off fee of R200 and an annual fee of R360 from January 2012. New members receive an OBU-tie and membership card.

Existing members are under no obligation to join the new fee system. We do, however, urge current members to complete the necessary forms in order to convert their membership to the new structure of R360 per year. Note - the R200 subscription fee is not applicable to existing members who convert their membership.

It is possible to ***donate additionally*** by contributing over and above the normal fees. Indicate on the application form where this additional contribution must be allocated.

The OBU recently modernized our membership administration system. In the past, members wrote cheques or arranged for stop-orders with their banks. We now have the ability to collect money via ***debit order*** from a savings, check or credit card (Visa or Mastercard).

Simply fill in the application form. Give instruction on how much to collect on what date. Instruct us where to allocate your contributions over and above the normal membership fees. We'll do the rest!

Bequests: There is a codicil on the website for old boys who wish to bequeath a portion of their estate to the school or the OBU.

Regional Committees: The OBU aims to expand regional committees – locally and abroad. Etienne van der Spuy has indicated that there is a need for a committee in England. Francois van der Spuy and Robert Bricout have already put their hands up to assist. Contact the OBU Office with details of old boys in Europe so we can approach them.

AGM: The OBU's annual general meeting takes place at the end of August. Members receive advance notice and are encouraged to attend this meeting. This is the place where the elected committee is kept accountable. See our constitution for more information. It is available on the website.



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Take action!

- a. Contact the OBU office and update your personal information.
- b. Join or convert your membership if you are already a member.
- c. Take time and send us details of other old boys with whom you have contact.
- d. Send us interesting information, stories, photos and memories to help write the story of Boishaai.
- e. Give your opinion and ideas. Positive or negative. We accept it in the spirit in which it is shared!

We greet with the following: Boishaai's old boys are proudly part of the formation and development of a world class school through exclusive membership, involvement and contribution. This is our legacy. It is our honour.

Galpil regards

Rinus van der Sluys

BE THE GENTLEMAN PAARL BOYS' HIGH HAS BEEN KNOWN TO RAISE