

SURBITON HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1058888

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST AUGUST 2009

Objectives and Results

The objectives of the Parents' Association continue to be:

- a) to serve the interests of the school community;
- b) to keep and enhance the social well being of the parents; and
- c) to raise funds for equal distribution within the three schools.

These objectives are to be achieved by meetings, lectures, discussions, social events and other suitable means.

The attached Financial Statements comprising the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st August 2009 and Balance Sheet as at 31st August 2009 reflect the financial activity of the Parents' Association for this period.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis in accordance with guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.

The many activities organized by the PA during the year have been highlighted in the Chair's report. The net gain generated from the fundraising activities this year was £13,922. This is an excellent result and the Committee must be thanked for their hard work in organizing these events.

Highlights

As usual, the biggest fundraiser was the Christmas Fair which this year raised £5,723 (£5,436 in 2007/08). Coming as this year's Fair did hard on the heels of the height of the world financial crisis, this was an excellent result. The Fair is the largest event organized by the PA and is enthusiastically supported by pupils at all three schools and their parents and friends. On behalf of the PA I would like to thank the external stall holders, the many parents and pupils who put so much effort and imagination into running the internal stalls, and those committee members who give their time to organizing the whole event.

The Quiz Night, as usual, was a great success and raised £1,602 (£906 in 2007/08). This is a consistently popular event and this year was no different. The Activote system (purchased for the school by the PA in 2005/06) is put to very good use at this event. I would like to thank the organizers for their sterling efforts in arranging such an enjoyable evening and producing a good profit at a very reasonable cost to attendees.

The New Parents' Supper held in September 2008 for new Year 7 parents also achieved all the objectives referred to above, being a much-appreciated opportunity for new parents to meet each other, and raising £1,699. Building on this success, in 2009/10 New Parents' Suppers were run both for new Year 7 parents and also for new parents of children in the junior schools.

I would like specifically to mention those events which incurred a financial loss this year, being the Prep Fun Day and the Summer Event. The Prep Fun Day is a very popular event which in recent years has been held in September, mainly to ease the pressure on people's diaries in the very busy summer term. The unpredictability of the weather is a factor affecting ticket sales so a discount is given to encourage advance purchases. The

entertainment laid on for the children is a fixed cost and it is therefore not easy to achieve a profit here having regard to the organizers' wish to keep the ticket price to a reasonable level and to the relatively small number of families concerned. However I am sure that all who attend will agree with me that it is most enjoyable day for both children and parents and amply fulfils objectives (a) and (b) referred to above, if not always (c).

The Summer Event this year was the "Posh Picnic" held at Hinchley Wood on a perfect July evening. Suffice it to say that, whilst a financial loss was sustained this year, the feedback from those who attended was overwhelmingly encouraging and, bearing in mind that it was a new event being run for the first time at an extremely busy time of year, it was an extremely successful evening. The local residents in Manor Road South were invited to attend (at a reduced ticket price); some did and expressed their appreciation. The organizers, who worked extremely hard in arranging the musical entertainment and drumming up ticket sales, have been persuaded by the positive feedback to plan to run the event again next year and I very much hope that it will be as well supported as it deserves to be.

The Junior Girls' Disco and Dads' Camping are firm fixtures on the PA calendar. The disco is always much enjoyed by the girls and their parents. Dads' Camping was again a sell-out, looked forward to all year by children and dads, not to mention the mothers who are probably the first to put the date in their diaries. The organizers have noted that this year's - most laudable - initiative to enhance the menu was not enthusiastically received, and next year's profit will no doubt be improved by the removal of salad items from the shopping list.

Last, but by no means least, I would like on behalf of the Committee to thank Karen Goddard and her helpers for their very considerable contribution to the PA's income from the second hand uniform sale. Karen has now stepped down after many successful years and on behalf of the PA I would like to thank Jane Morrison and Jane Ioakimides for taking on this role and to wish them all the best.

Contributions to the School

The PA contributed some of the items required for the new "family style" dining at the Junior Girls' School and this initiative has been a great success. We also bought some musical instruments for the Prep. However this year's main purchase was the new minibus for the use of all three schools, which many of us will have seen out and about. The PA Committee had for some time been discussing the possibility of raising funds for a major item rather than for numerous smaller ones, and was delighted to receive this request for the purchase of an item which is clearly being put to excellent use by all three schools.

Future

Notwithstanding this major purchase, there was a healthy bank balance at the year end. The committee has agreed to pay for some of the items which have recently been installed in the Junior Girls' playground as part of its redevelopment and discussions are under way as regards the next major purchase. I have no doubt that the PA will rise to the challenge and continue to make its contribution to taking the school from strength to strength, and I would like to wish Cynthia and the ongoing Committee every success in their endeavours.

Mary Elliott
Treasurer