

**CBC MONKSTOWN PARK**

PAST PUPILS UNION

***“CBC Matters”***

CBC Monkstown Past Pupils Union AGM, June 3rd 2021

**President’s Report**

Gentlemen

On behalf of the PPU I would like to welcome you to the 2021 AGM of the CBC Monkstown Park Past Pupils Union. Like this time last year, the impact of Covid-19 means we have to have our AGM on a virtual platform. Unlike this time last year, we can see a path out of these unique and challenging times and the road ahead is one of hope, enthusiasm and anticipation and hopefully by this time next year we will be in a position to resume having our AGM and, indeed, other events, back in the school.

I would like to suggest that this transition back to some kind of normality also might be a timely opportunity for the PPU to embrace the opportunity to embark on both its regular activities and maybe some new ones. I think it is fair to say that, as a society, the imposition of Covid-19 restrictions made us reconsider a number of things that we perhaps took for granted, we realised what we missed, but we also worked out ways to do things differently, and often better, when faced with adversity. It certainly became quickly and obviously evident that we need to be in contact and interact which is, of course, exactly what the PPU facilitates for past pupils and the wider community. I am delighted that we now have a significantly expanded executive committee which I am confident will rise to the challenge of delivering what our members need in terms of PPU activity going forward.

I was extremely honoured to have been proposed to serve a second term as president of the PPU, a role I am very happy to fulfil. That said, I hope that, going forward, there will be sufficient numbers, diversity and experience on the committee that second terms remain very much the exception rather than the rule. On that note, my sincere thanks goes to my immediate predecessor, Dermot Kelly, who has served as president or vice president for five years now and with constant enthusiasm and welcome leadership. I must also thank long serving committee members Alan Cuffe (treasurer), John Molloy (secretary) and David O’Hanrahan, all of whom are former presidents of the PPU. My special thanks also to the other committee members Eoin Collins, Ryan Corcoran, Tim Kinsella, Adam Tarbett and Paul O'Sullivan. Without the voluntary efforts of these gentlemen, there would be no PPU. Many thanks guys. A further special thank you is also due to Shane Counihan who stepped down during the year after many years on the committee. On behalf of the committee I also offer Shane our sincere condolences on the passing of his father, Jerome Counihan, last month, himself a past pupil, who left CBC in 1970.

Our links to the College remain strong and I would also like to thank CBC Principal, Mr Gerry Duffy, for his ongoing support for the PPU and its activities. We look forward to being able to gather together once again and resume traditional activities such as the presentation of ties to the SCT players, the awarding of honorary membership of the PPU to 6th Year graduates and, of course, some reunions. Other support from the school tofurther develop the PPU website was provided by staff members, previously Ian O’Herlihy and more recently, from our own committee member, Ryan Corcoran. Again, without such support, the -PPU would not be able to function.

Looking back over the last year or so, like most other organisations, our activities have been severely curtailed. Though the PPU was not without its successes. In 2020, literally days before the first Covid-19 enforced lockdown, the PPU was very proud to have been able to organise a fundraising table quiz to help raise funds for former pupil [Sean Drummond](https://ie.gofundme.com/f/support4drummo) who suffered traumatic brain injuries following an accident in London in 2019 and is still in hospital there, participating in a programme of intensive rehabilitation. This obviously puts a massive burden, especially financially, on Sean’s family. Having set a target of €5,000 the event ultimately raised in excess of €11,000 which the PPU hopes will help a bit. The generosity of both the sponsors of prizes and auction items as well as all the participants on the night was quite extraordinary and is a great illustration of how strong that ‘*CBC factor’* can be.

Another great success was the organisation and running of the annual golf classic. While the usual dinner and raffle could not be held with the ongoing heath restrictions, we were lucky that our ‘slot’ in Dun Laoghaire Golf Club, on Friday 21 August fell, during the few months that golf was permitted and we managed to sign up nearly 30 past pupils to participate. While the wind made things tough the course itself was in great condition and the outdoor facilities which were permitted in Dun Laoghaire golf club at the time were enjoyed by many of the participants. Congratulations to Donal Courtney who not only retained his individual title, but was also a member of the winning team, along with Luke O’Reilly and Will Griffith. A very special note of thanks to Aodh Burke (’64), who, despite us NOT looking for sponsorship sent up some ‘goodies’ that have helped us enhance the goodie bags and the prizes. And, of course to Paul Wyse for being our DLGC man – he makes it easy for us. Hopefully we can return to a full event again later this year.

Other activities during the year included some updates to the PPU website and the launching of the Membership Drive 2021 whereby all new membership subscriptions received in 2021 will be divided equally and passed on to two charities, *Pieta House*, supporting people and communities in crisis and *Support4Drummo* which continues to raise funds for the aforementioned Sean Drummond. At the end of 2020, given that less funds were needed than in a typical year, the PPU made Christmas donations of €500 each to the local *St. Vincent de Paul* and the 6th Years’ *“Movember” men’s health project*.

Looking forward to the latter half of this year and into 2022, hopefully traditional activities can resume and some new ones can be tried. We look forward to supporting class reunions and seeing our membership expand. Don’t forget, once permitted again under health guidelines, the PPU will offer to support any reunions with a wine reception in CBC followed by a tour of the facilities by Gerry or one of his colleagues. Last September saw CBC’s 70th birthday - perhaps that can be marked by a special event? Certainly, if the PPU can play a role in supporting such an event it will do so.

The Past Pupils Union strives to ensure that *CBC matters*, and continues to matter, to every past pupil wherever their journey in life takes them. We are hoping that with the easing of restrictions, the activities of the [Alumni Networking Group](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2199490) and the use of modern communication channels we will be able to keep all past pupils better informed about PPU activities. We will listen to what our past pupils want and do our best to ensure the PPU helps make that happen.

I would like to close by wishing the extended PPU community success and safety for the coming year.

**Russell Burke, Honorary President, CBC Monkstown Park Past Pupils Union**

**3rd June 2021**

If you would like more information on the PPU please email cbcppu@gmail.com or visit [www.cbcppu.ie](http://www.cbcppu.ie) .