

2019

ANNUAL REPORT

OGMG UK, Ireland & Europe



FOUNDED IN 1879



Executive Committee

The Executive Committee during 2019 were:

Bukky Durojaiye, President

Gladys Lawson, Vice President

Mosun Adeniyi, Secretary

Bisola Ojumu, Deputy Secretary

Tola Ayeni, Social Secretary

Yetunde Naiwo, Deputy Social Secretary

Funmi Joseph, Financial Secretary

Sylvia Amifor, Treasurer

Adeola Adetona, Welfare & Membership Secretary



Methodist Girls High School Old Girl Association UK, Ireland and Europe, Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2019



Introduction

Our Alumni group started from informal and formal gatherings of sisters at different places and various events. Before this time Mrs Moji Bamtefa represented the school at all events including the annual Igbobi College Old Boys Association (ICOPA) Sports Day (now the NSF Sports Day).

In 2016 the first formal executive elections of the Methodist Girls High School Old Girls Association, UK, (OGMG) were held and the official alumni association born in 2017. In 2019 the alumni group's name changed to Methodist Girls High School Old Girls Association, UK, Ireland and Europe.

We are indeed proud of what we have achieved and how far we have come.

Summary of OGMG Strategic Aims and Objectives

1. To promote interaction, friendship, support and networking opportunities for former students of Methodist Girls' High School (MGHS), Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.
2. To work in partnership with the MGHS Old Girls Association parent body (Nigeria) to support the development and advancement of current students of MGHS.
3. To work in partnership with the MGHS Old Girls Association parent body (Nigeria) to assist with the transformation of MGHS, on such projects as the maintenance, repairs, restoration and improvements to MGHS.
4. To establish and strengthen links with other established Methodist Girls' High School Alumni Associations worldwide.
5. To establish links with other Nigerian Alumni Associations and participate in events.
6. To achieve such further objectives as the Association may determine from time to time.

2017 Association Highlights

- Lit Day
- Founder's Day
- NSF Sports Day
- Founder's Day

2018 Association Highlights

- AGM
- Galilee Walk
- Lit Day
- NSF Sports Day
- Founder's Day

2019 Strategic Report

During an Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting in January 2019 the President, Bukky Durojaiye, shared her vision for the year with the group. It was to make a difference, continue to support the building project of our old school in Nigeria and to help one another. At the end of that meeting, in line with the objectives of the Association and her vision, the following activities and events were agreed for the year:

- Annual General Meeting, February 2019
- Launch of the Kolo Challenge, February 2019
- Lit Day, July 2019

- Founder's Day 2019, Celebrating 140 years of MGHS
- Attendance at other school's alumni events

During 2019, the Association oversaw:

- the demolition of the Old School Block of MGHS
- an agreement reached for the design of the new building replacing it
- the "Kolo Challenge" go worldwide in USA and Nigeria; all funds raised from the challenge going towards the building project
- the introduction of "Songspiration" at Lit Day 2019 which has fostered relationships between people of different sets
- the successful celebration of the 140th year of MGHS
- the addition of Europe to our Association's name
- the creation of a Deputy Welfare post

In February 2019 our AGM took place. During the meeting, we approved an amendment to our Constitution, adding the word Europe to the Association's name. We also created a Deputy Welfare & Membership Secretary post and launched a new fundraising initiative, the Kolo Challenge.

Our annual Lit Day took place on 6 July 2019 and was now in its third year. Tickets for the event sold out 2 weeks beforehand. Over 14 other alumni school associations attended and took part in the day's activities. Also at the event were representatives of the Nigerian School's Foundation (NSF) and the President of Methodist Girls High School Old Girls Association (Nigeria), Mrs Yomi Afolabi.

This Lit Day also saw the introduction of the "Songspiration" who gave everyone a trip down memory lane with their dance production of Ipi Tomi. The Fashion Competition, Debate and Lip Sync Competition all produced worthy winners. The raffle draw raised £350.

The NSF Sports Day took place during the August Bank Holiday weekend. OGMG represented us at several activities throughout the day. We were delighted to win 1st place in the March Past with our 'Remove Wig' march.



OGMG 2019 SWOT ANALYSIS

Past, current and future assessment of activities and projects

Strengths

- A thriving alumni
- Opening of a bank account in Nigeria
- Demolition of the Old School Block
- Sell-out Association activities
- Introduction of "Songspiration"

Weaknesses

- Under-representation of member from junior sets
- Alumni representation at other events
- Low level of payment of annual dues

Opportunities

- Reach out to sisters from junior sets
- Use of technology for more effective communication

Threats

- Ability to continue to maximise attendance at our events



President's Report



Over the last three years, we have made significant progress in establishing the UK MGHS Alumni Association. I would like to thank all the members of the Association for giving me the opportunity to serve.

This is the first year that we have produced a formal Annual Report. My thanks for all the efforts of the team involved in putting it together.

In 2017 we set out our focus primarily to:

- leave a legacy and raise funds for the new school building at MGHS
- build a thriving alumni
- increase our presence amongst other Nigerian secondary school alumnus in the UK.

Our focus was, and is always, rooted in our school motto — Must Gain High Standard. ExCo's vision is to make a difference. Over the last three years, through your donations and a range of successful fundraising initiatives such as Lit Day's, the Galilee Walk, Kolo Challenge and Fund-a-bag-of-Cement, we have increased our income exponentially.

The School Building project has not progressed as quickly as we had hoped. Demolition of the Old School building in MGHS took place in April 2019. The Building Committee is going through the final process of appointing a company to manage the building project. Seven companies have tendered for the project.

We also have, over the last three years, significantly improved our presence and the range of activities we run both within the UK and internationally. We have rediscovered friendships, built new relationships and successfully worked across different sets to deliver our mission.

OGMG UK, Ireland and Europe have become pace setters by establishing links with and providing direction for the US and Nigeria OGMG.

While we have seen an increase in collaboration, there's a lot more that we can do to develop a thriving alumni. Our focus over the next two years and beyond is to:

- continue in our efforts to fundraise for the new building
- collaborate with OGMG Nigeria to support the development of quality teaching at MGHS
- explore the possibility of registering the Association as a legal entity
- foster networking and support mechanisms to build a thriving alumni
- develop several small projects to improve the school and the alumni
- better engage OGMG alumni in Ireland

Doing this will require a collective effort from all of us. I encourage you to join in and get involved in the next chapter of our Association by:

- paying your annual dues, which is currently £30.00 per annum
- participating in projects
- fundraising
- sharing your skills and experience to support the growth and development of the Association

I am inspired by the legacy and opportunity we have to make a significant difference in our time.

Finally, ladies I leave you with this quote "every moment is a fresh beginning; please let's aspire to inspire before we expire" [Patience Hunter].

Thank you.

Bukky Durojaiye
President



Welfare Secretary's Report

As Welfare and Membership Secretary, I manage welfare and membership issues that arise, or as directed by the President and other ExCo. My office supports the vision of the Association and works across other Association posts to support the team.

I am the point of contact for welfare concerns such as bereavement, hardship and any other welfare-related matters and liaise with Welfare Secretaries across sets as appropriate. In my role, I also keep an updated database of members and their contact details.

During the last year, the membership of the Association has increased. As at 1 January 2019, there were 100 members on the database which was collated mostly from the February 2018 Voters List. This database was not an exhaustive list of members rather only those that had chosen to vote.

There are currently 163 participants on the main OGMG WhatsApp group, and this includes new members added during the year. 102 members paid their annual subscription for the year ending 31 December 2019.

During the year, the Welfare Office supported sisters during bereavement and celebrated successes and achievements.

A Welfare group has been set up to support the Welfare office in executing its function.

Going ahead, the Welfare Office will continue to liaise with sisters from "junior sets" to encourage participation and increase membership. Over the 2020 Easter period, we will begin our "Reach out to a Sister" initiative when we will reach out to "senior sisters" or sisters going through any challenges.

Another initiative to promote and encourage networking of businesses, professions and NGO amongst OGMG is underway. We are collating details of individual interests and occupations that will enable this initiative to move forward. A survey to capture this is on the OGMG WhatsApp. Opportunities for discussing health matters and wellbeing to be championed by a sister in the house is under consideration further to the outcome of the survey.

Adeola Adetona

Welfare & Membership Secretary



Financial Secretary's Report



Our Association's account is not required, by any statute, to undergo independent examination; however, ExCo decided to undertake this exercise for the period of January 2019 to December 2019. We wanted to obtain independent professional advice and recommendations on finance processes and policies.

This past year our Alumni Community has grown in numbers and as such income from our dues has increased. We continue to encourage all ladies to pay the membership dues, which remains at £30 per year. Recent research amongst other Alumni's similar to ours shows that OGMG members pay the lowest amount for yearly dues/subscription. Membership dues are likely to increase going forward.

The Kolo Challenge was the focus of our fundraising during the first half of 2019 with approximately £3,000.00 raised. This total was much lower than we had hoped to raise. We salute everyone who took part in the challenge.

Lit Day 2019 was a bang, raising approximately £6,900.00. We expect that Lit Day 2020 will be an even louder bang.

We celebrated our best Founder's Day thus far. MGHS at 140 years - an event meant to simply fund itself, not only did so but also raised almost £1000.00.

Thank you all for your generosity always.

ExCo decided during the year to open a Naira account at Sterling Bank, Lagos. Since opening the account, we have transferred money ready to be donated to the new school building as soon as the need arises. Almost £14,500.00 has been transferred to our Naira account.

Ours is a thriving Alumni Association, and our goal for 2020 is to continue to improve our financial fluency. To this end, in the future, please note that all money and income for non-OGMG events will be paid into a separate account—details of the account TBC.

Our Independent Examiner has made recommendations that will be put in place with immediate effect.

Once again, a very big thank you to all who continue to contribute financially to the success of our Alumni.

Up School!

Funmi Joseph
Financial Secretary

Independent Reviewer's Report

Report on the Accounting Review to the Executive (EXCO) of the OGMG UK, IRELAND AND EUROPE

Scope of this review

This review covers the UK Barclays Bank UK account and the Sterling Bank Nigeria, Naira account of the OGMG UK, Ireland and Europe (OGMG UK) for the year 01/01/19 to 31/12/19.

Respective responsibilities of the EXCO and the reviewer

The EXCO of OGMG UK is jointly responsible for the preparation of the accounts and the reconciliation of the bank statements. The OGMG UK is not a registered UK Charity and the EXCO understand that an independent examination is not required but the EXCO have chosen to voluntarily undertake an accounting review of the bank accounts and accounting records for the year ended 31st December 2019. The reviewer is responsible for the accounting review of the accounts and bank statements provided for the above period.

Basis of accounting Review

My review was based on an examination of the accounting record / spreadsheet kept by the OGMG and a comparison of the transactions with the Barclays Bank Pound Sterling Statement and the Sterling Bank Nigeria Naira account presented along with the accounting records. My review also included consideration of any unusual or large items or disclosures in the accounts, and explanations sought concerning any such matters. I did not examine any supporting documents such as receipts and invoices as there were none. The procedures undertaken by me do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the scope and the findings and recommendations of this review.

Findings and recommendations

1. In connection with my review, there are no matters that have come to my attention which give me reasonable cause to believe that the accounting records are not accurate in any material respect. The bank accounts agree with the accounting records on a receipts and payments basis for the year ended 31/12/19.
2. There was no formal authorisation process for the payment of funds out of the association accounts. I recommend that payments thresholds should be agreed by the EXCO, and any payments made above these thresholds should be approved by at least two EXCO members (Chair and Treasurer) and should be ratified in the EXCO meeting minutes.
3. The various payments from the UK account to the Nigerian account do not have matching references. This made it difficult to match individual Pound Sterling transfers to the Naira equivalent. I recommend that some form of remittance sheet should be kept that shows the date, Pound Sterling amount, the agreed exchange rate and the Naira equivalent for each transfer.
4. I recommend that as much as possible, all payments made on behalf of OGMG UK should be supported by receipts and supplier invoices.

Olabode Olaniyan Bsc(Hons), FCA, FFA, FTA, FIPA, MBA
Reviewer





OGMG UK IRELAND & EUROPE RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY – 01/01/19 to 31/12/19

Reconciliation as at 01/01/19

21,907.53

Balance agreed with Bank statement

Received

Member dues	3,362.50
LIT DAY 2019	10,287.50
LIT DAY DONATIONS	1,001.50
NSF QUIZ BOA	50.00
KOLO	2,981.84
Founders Day	2,249.28
POLO Tshirts/sash/beret	305.87
AGM	90.00
Building Fund	150.00
Other Alumni	2,820.00
Other	25.00

23,323.49

Payments

Lit day exp	-4,360.72
other alumni events exp	-2,780.00
Founders Day exp	-1,578.40
TRF TO NAIRA A/C	-14,402.00
Events expenses Venue hire	-655.50
NSF	-200.00

-23,976.62

Balance at 31/12/19

21,254.40

Balance agreed with bank statement

