**SMC FP Club President’s Report May 2021**

It is a great privilege in having been elected as President of your club to serve for a two-year term in office.  SMC FP Club is a prestigious club with a long and enviable history of success, and I intend that this eminent heritage will continue under my Presidency with the support of the Council and membership.  The club represents around 5,000 contactable alumni around the world which is definitely something we have to build on for our future survival.

In just three short months I have chaired two Council Meetings and most importantly key roles have been filled in the form of Treasurer and more recently an excellent and exemplary candidate for the vacant Vice - Presidency which hopefully will receive unanimous support when club officials are elected at this forthcoming AGM.  The Council currently comprises a wide cross section of very experienced individuals from all walks of life.

I have been extremely fortunate in being superbly supported by Laura McIntosh and Suzi Squires and I would specifically thank them both for helping me to assume my responsibilities as Club President in a seamless and most efficient fashion.   Already we are working on a draft 5-year business plan for the Club and more details will be available at a later date.

Two significant tasks have already been completed in the form of (a) the revision and acceptance by Council thereof pertaining to the Club Constitution and I would extend my particular appreciation to Alasdair Seale for his excellent efforts in achieving this in a relatively short period and (b) the transfer of invested assets, which is in the final stages of completion, in favour of DSMC in support of the Hardship Fund.  This completed the agreement at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15 July 2020.

Much work remains to be done to improve awareness of the Club amongst potential members and school leavers including in the Club Branches and consideration will be made regarding a possible marketing matrix exercise to attract a greater membership coupled with a review of potential post-Covid social events.  More on that later.

Legacy Project.

I am very keen to progress the initiative by Past President Charles S. Wilson with regard to the installation of a passenger lift in the Clubhouse at Inverleith and Charles has very kindly agreed to continue to work with me in bringing this to a satisfactory conclusion once we have ascertained and agreed the various sources of funding for the project hopefully with the support of both the School and the Merchant Company.   This will be a definite enhancement to the Clubhouse as an attractive venue and thereby income producing asset.

Social Events.

With a degree of light at the end of the long tunnel of Covid restrictions we should be able to plan ahead for social events later in the year details of which will be made available as and when each event has been agreed by Council.

Ken Russell

President