

**OCA AGM Saturday 30 July 2016 at the Brit School 1330-1600**

**Minutes and Action Points.**

**1. Welcome, attendance, one minute's silence and apologies for absence**

The Chairman welcomed all to the AGM. Five decades were represented.

(a) Those in attendance were:

**John Ashe**  
**Alan Biswell**  
**John Cook**  
**Phyllis Cooper née Joy**  
**Hazel Damiral**  
**Graham Derriman**  
**David Eaton**  
**Diana Eaton**  
**Robert Fitsall**  
**Ann Fitsall**  
**Cortland Fransella - Committee**  
**Margaret Freeman (Head)**  
**Michael Gay-Cuming**  
**Valerie Heathorn - Committee**  
**Ian Herbertson - Committee**  
**Roger Hill – Membership/Acting Treasurer**  
**Bronwen Howell née Laurensen**  
**Neil Marshall**  
**Derek Mauri**  
**Anne Moore née Boswell**  
**Steve Palmer – Chairman/Webmaster/Magazine Editor**  
**Elaine Price née Stewart**  
**Brian Self**  
**Bob Smith - Committee**  
**Tony Stelling**  
**Yvonne Smith**  
**Valerie Taylor née Butler**  
**Elizabeth Veasey**  
**John Wallace**  
**Graham White**  
**Roy Winnett**  
**Brian Young**

(b) One minute's silence was held for those who had died since the last AGM in July 2015:

**David James Bare**  
**Jean Brant**  
**Edward Budden**  
**Denis Cattle**  
**Marjorie Chandler nee Upton**  
**Peter Francis - Ex Committee**

Gerald **Hambling**  
Professor John **Hull**  
Dr. Anthony 'Tony' **Kaesar**  
Arthur Charles **Law**  
Blake **Mansell**  
Professor Anthony **Mellows**  
John Ronald **Munday** - Ex Treasurer  
Pamela Kathleen **Nason**  
John **Pocock**  
Aubrey Gerald **Scrase**  
Geoffrey **Sprigge**  
Beryl Teresa **Stevens**  
Tony **Weeks-Pearson** - Staff  
Reg **Whellock**  
Bernard **Woolnough** - Ex Chairman, Editor and Treasurer.

(c) Apologies had been received from:

Fred **Allen**  
Richard **Chatterjee** - Committee  
Mike **Fleet**  
Alan **Hook**  
Des and Yvonne **Hunsworth**  
Trevor **James**  
Peter **Juniper**  
Michael **Keitch**  
Ian **Leggat**  
Donald **MacLeod**  
Isabel **MacLeod**  
Ann **Moffatt**  
Arnold 'Robbie' **Robinson**  
Barbara **Smith**  
Tony **Teal**  
Keith **Whitham**  
Margaret **Ziolek** - Committee

## **2. Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising.**

(a) The minutes of the AGM held on 25 July 2015 were accepted without amendment.

Proposer: Derek MAURI

Seconder: Yvonne SMITH.

(b) There were no matters arising which were not addressed under other agenda items.

### **3. Reports from the Chairman, Webmaster and Magazine Editor – Steve Palmer.**

**(a) Chairman.** The Chairman drew attention to the written report circulated to those present and attached to these Minutes. In particular, he invited feedback on the OCA Timeline. Those present agreed that it was welcome.

**(b) Webmaster.** As shown in the paper circulated to those present and attached to these Minutes, there were more hits each year. The panoramic photographs were the most popular: the OCA had a better collection than Croydon Archives and Library. Even we had, however, many gaps in the series of Boys' panoramics.

- **Lists of names:** David Eaton referred to a similar Naval website which provided a near comprehensive list of names. He had first found the OCA through a website which at that time had a long list of names but which had since suppressed it. Was it not possible to grant access in a protected area of our site? Steve Palmer noted that the site referred to was not ours but an unofficial one run by an old boy. There followed a brief exchange on Data Protection regulations. David's naval site was required to ask each member to confirm annually approval for the name to be retained on the list. Elaine Price knew from her police career that a simple name and reference to Selhurst would not help any criminals. Roger Hill (Membership) understood the interest in having such a list but noted that it required significant effort to create and to maintain. David Eaton and Elaine Price volunteered to help to look into the legalities and practicalities of producing a comprehensive list of those who had attended both schools.
- **Old Croydonians' Rugby Club.** Through the website, we had been contacted by the Croydon Rugby Club which had subsumed the OCRC. John Ashe noted that there was now a corner of the bar commemorating the OCRC.

**(c) Magazine Editor.** In addition to the points covered in the report circulated and attached to these Minutes, Steve Palmer renewed his appeal for copy. There were a few regular contributors but we needed new material from others.

- **Magazine costs.** Mike Gay-Cuming noted that there was a size of paper just under A4 which sneaked under the Post Office's more expensive A4 threshold. Steve Palmer replied that our solution had been to use A5 (A4 folded) but, when necessary, to use thinner paper in order to keep under 100 grams.
- **Congratulations.** Graham Derriman moved a vote of thanks to Steve Palmer for all his work as chairman, webmaster and magazine editor. This was adopted unanimously, to sustained applause.

The above three reports were accepted without amendment.

Proposer: Derek MAURI

Secunder: John ASHE.

### **4. Report from the Honorary Treasurer – Roger Hill.**

Roger drew attention to the report circulated to those present and attached to these Minutes.

**(a) John Munday.** Roger paid tribute to the hard work of John Munday, the late Honorary Treasurer, who had sadly died in December 2015. Roger and John were related and had become close friends.

**(b) Subscriptions.** Without anticipating the vote on membership categories to take place later in the meeting, Roger drew attention to the fact that the move to annual subscriptions had already greatly increased the funds of the Association. In 2014-15 our income from subscriptions had been £302. In 2015-16 (first year of the new arrangements) it was £3601. There was also £1572 of donations - a higher figure than usual because of one very generous donation.

The Hon Treasurer's Report and Accounts were accepted without amendment.

Proposer: Neil Marshall

Secunder: Elizabeth Veasey.

**(c) Expenses Policy.** This had been debated at the previous AGM and operated provisionally since then by agreement of that AGM. In short, it allowed members of the Committee to claim reasonable expenses when on OCA business.

The Expenses Policy was formally accepted without amendment.

Proposer: Graham Derriman.

Secunder: David Eaton.

**Action: Expenses policy to be formally implemented by the Committee.**

## **5. Report from the Membership Secretary – Roger Hill.**

In addition to general points made in the brief report circulated to those present and with these Minutes, Roger noted that the most significant aspect of membership was the proposed change to categories under the two Options on which members had been invited to vote before and during this AGM.

**(a) Vote on membership categories.** Steve Palmer as Chairman had counted the votes. Derek Mauri, acting as scrutineer, had double-checked the count. Details were as follows:

- Of 520+ members given the opportunity to vote, 65 (just over 12%) had voted.
- 27 (42% of those voting) had chosen Option 1.
- 37 (57% of those voting) had chosen Option 2.
- 1 member had abstained.
- Therefore Option 2 was adopted.
- Under Option 2 there would be two classes of members – ‘Sustaining Members’ who paid an annual subscription and ‘Life members’ who did not pay an annual subscription and who would receive reduced benefits.

- These results and their implications would be posted on the OCA website shortly but a note would also go out to all members.

**Action: Roger Hill as Membership Secretary to notify all members.**

**(b) Consequences of the adoption of Option 2.**

- Roger Hill noted that, by adopting Option 2, those voting had chosen not to ‘excommunicate’ those who chose not to pay their annual subscriptions. Adoption of Option 1 would have removed many from the membership lists.
- Graham Derriman asked if we might seek annual donations from those who chose not to pay their annual subscription. Roger Hill felt that those who made a decision not be Sustaining Members would be told that they were not in that category but invited to make a donation if they wished.
- There was brief discussion of nomenclature, in light of the comment sent in and circulated as being from ‘Member A’ (see attached). Derek MAURI favoured sticking with the simple name ‘Life Members’. This was the consensus of the meeting.
- Derek MAURI asked whether, if Life Members did make a donation, they thereby became Sustaining Members. Roger Hill felt that they would be Life Members who had made a financial donation.

*NOTE: This was subsequently clarified by Roger Hill (Membership Secretary) and Ian Herbertson (Chair and Treasurer) as follows: A ‘donation’ is not a ‘subscription’. A ‘life member’ who has not paid the annual subscription may become a ‘sustaining member’ only by completing the relevant form and paying the annual subscription.*

- Comment was invited on the points made by ‘Member B’ (see attached). Nobody present wished to comment beyond expressing the view that there was in fact no breach of contract.

**7. Election and re-election of Committee and Honorary Auditor.**

**(a)** Existing members of the Committee were re-elected.

Proposer: Hazel Damiral

Secunder: Yvonne Smith.

**(b)** Elaine Price was elected to the Committee.

Proposer: Graham Derriman

Secunder: Ann Moore.

**(c)** Ian Herbertson was elected to be the new Chairman, Treasurer and Magazine Editor.

Proposer: Graham Derriman

Secunder: John Graham.

**(d)** Ian Park, who had agreed to act as Honorary Auditor for another year, was approved.

Proposer: Mike Gay-Cuming

Secunder: Derek Mauri.

(e) Ian Herbertson expressed the thanks of all members for the sterling work of Steve Palmer over the past 12 years in various capacities but especially his efforts as Chairman since 2010 and his successes with the website and the magazine. All present expressed their appreciation.

## **8. A vision for the future of the OCA.**

Roger Hill noted that our membership would inevitably decline with the years. Whilst we might persuade some other OCs to join the Association, there had been no Selhurst schools since the 1980s from whom to recruit fresh members. He said, "We are aiming to set up a Charitable Educational Trust to give former pupils of all the various Selhurst/Crescent Schools an opportunity to contribute to a legacy of the values, traditions & standards from those schools for the benefit of future pupils. This could include a set of annual Croydonian/Selhurst awards and possibly also some bursaries/scholarships to specialist schools." Some major sponsorship would be required to make this viable and here we might, in fact, think of approaching some of the more (in some cases extremely) successful graduates of the Brit School now on the site of the Girls' School. This needed more thought and study but it would provide a way of leaving a continuing legacy when we had all passed on. Elizabeth Veasey welcomed this suggestion, which met general support from those present.

**Action: all members – comments welcome.**

*[Note to Committee Members: I have omitted here any reference under this point or under AOB to discussion of the Primary School and its possible evolution into an Academy as it seemed to be generally agreed that they would not (see above) lead to any new recruits to the OCA.]*

## **9. Any Other Business.**

(a) The Committee had come into the possession of a plaque from the old Ingram School. It transpired that an old boy of Ingram's had liberated this item many years ago and had recently had a fit of conscience, deciding to return it to the nearest thing to a successor to his old school. The Committee would now discuss what might be done with this. Donation to the Croydon Museum was a possibility.

**Action: Committee to explore with Croydon Museum.**

(b) Warm thanks and appreciation were expressed to Bob Smith and Lesley Ryan who had once more laid on an excellent spread. Lesley explained that, whilst there was a fair amount of food left over, none would go to waste as she would take it to No Second Night - an organisation which works to prevent homeless young people from becoming street-dwellers. This received further applause from those present.

(c) Bronwen Howell suggested a campaign for every member to recruit two more. Hazel Damiral and Valerie Heathorn noted that some years ago they had spent a great deal of time emailing literally hundreds of former Girls' School pupils. It was a hugely labour-intensive exercise and generated just one new member. Yvonne Smith noted that when she was first invited some twenty Old Girls came but she is now the only one still attending.

(d) Graham Derriman asked whether we sent reports to the Croydon Advertiser. Steve Palmer explained that the local papers no longer covered such events. They expected us to send our own copy and photos but, even then, did not publish them.

(e) Steve Palmer explained that the so-called Old Croydonians' Facebook page had no connection with the OCA. OCA Committee Members did monitor it because some of its content was questionable. Elaine Price volunteered to set up an Official Facebook page.

**Action: Elaine Price to set up OCA Facebook page.**

(f) Finally, Valerie Heathorn, on behalf of the Committee and of all OCA members, expressed renewed thanks to Steve Palmer for his years of tireless work in sustaining and building up the Association and presented Steve with a fountain pen engraved with the OCA motto: *ludum ludite*. Valerie said:

“As the longest serving member of the current committee after Steve himself, it has fallen to me to say a few words of thanks for the tremendous amount of work Steve has done, not only as Chairman for the past 6 years, but also as both magazine editor and webmaster for the past 12 years as well as the numerous ad hoc duties which have allowed the Association to thrive and survive.

“Steve, you have been an unswerving, innovative and determined presence on the committee for a total of 13 years, keeping us all on our toes and being almost entirely responsible for bringing the considerable administration into the 21st century. We're glad and relieved that you have agreed to continue as webmaster for a while and will be around to help and to advise when needed.

“On behalf of the Association, I'd now like to present this gift in recognition of all that you have done. We know that you are a whizz with technology, but hope that this gift will not only give you pleasure but also help to keep you grounded in the more leisurely art of communication.”

The AGM ended at 1600 and those present stayed to enjoy their reunion with fellow OCs.