



Minutes of the 129th Annual General Meeting
of the Old Caterhamians Association
held on Friday 6 March 2020
in the Court Dining Room of Drapers' Hall
Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN
Chaired by: Clive Furness

PRESENT

OCA Committee Members

Colin Bagnall (Archivist, OC 1949-1955)
Clive Furness (President, OC 1971-1978)
Ceri Jones (Headmaster)
Mark Mear (Vice President, OC 1976-1985)
David Rogers (Honorary Member)
Paul Sharp (Treasurer, OC 1963-1972)

Annie Hebden (Alumni Officer)

OCA Members

John Jones (Honorary Member)
Stephen May (OC 1971-1976)
Chris Rose (OC 1971-1981)
Karin Schulte (OE 1974-1987)

The AGM was succeeded by a dinner of 114 guests.

Clive Furness gave a roll call of deceased members (attached to these minutes).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

OCA Committee Members

Bill Broadhead (Sports Club Rep, OC 1953-1960)
Greg Dunne (OC 2000-2005)
Emma Gooden (OC 2002-2007)
Tom Howes (Social Secretary, OC 2002-2007)
Vivien Parsons (Eothen Rep, EOGA 1964-1978))
Seb Raaf (OC 2001-2008)

OCA Members

Andrew Brown (OC 1953-1962)
David Charlesworth (OC 1959-1964)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF LAST AGM

No matters arose from the minutes of the last AGM, and minutes were accepted as a true record. The AGM minutes had been superceded by an SGM since the last AGM to change the OCA Constitution.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Clive Furness commented that it has been a busy year for the OCA, benefitting both the School and the Caterham community.

The OCA Innovation and Collaboration Prize was launched last year with the winners being an inspiring group of nine First Year girls indicating the breadth of interest it generated across the School. This year many more entries have been received from which six finalists will be selected to present to a judging panel.

Karin Schulte has proposed the 'Next Generation Boards' to attract younger OCs and keep their interest in the School, whilst also benefiting both the School and the OCA with their youthful perspective on the dynamic changes in society through technology and sustainability issues.

These will be advisory boards, so they have no authority or decision making power, but it will give them exposure to continued learning with regards to governance and participating in the School.

Ceri Jones advised that the Trustees are in full support as these OCs may become future members of this OCA Committee, Trustee board and Foundation members.

Clive Furness commented that the OCA must be thinking about our succession planning and how we can ensure that the OCA is a continually thriving group for which this development is key.

The Caterham School Society Insight Evenings are supported by the OCA both financially and with OC experts. These have been incredibly successful with a high uptake from pupils, parents and OCs. The next is scheduled for 17 March 2020 and focussed on 'Climate and Change'. All OCA members are invited to participate in future events either as a speaker, guest or putting forward ideas.

On the social side, the Over 60s lunches, providing OCs an excuse to indulge in a delicious lunch and reminisce about school all afternoon, and the informal Boarders' Reunions at London pubs have proved particularly popular. Going forward we will be looking at how informal reunions may be able to reach a larger OC audience.

Archiving digitisation is well underway with the first phase getting 12,000 records digitised, and the remaining backlog of materials scheduled to be digitised this year.

There will be two Vice-Presidents for next year as Mark Mear is also a Trustee, Karin Schulte has agreed to be nominated as Vice-President as well, which should give the OCA Committee a greater depth and diversity.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Income at £68,000 is similar to previous years, which is generated from £23/term per main school pupil and £2,500 from pre-1989 OC members, the latter being a group which is slowly diminishing. Expenditure is deliberately higher at £27,000 in order to reduce the surplus in the OCA Account.

Paul Sharp confirmed that the independent examiner approved the accounts for 2019 on 2 March 2020. The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Paul Sharp and seconded by Clive Furness.

Paul Sharp proposed donations for 2020 which were similar to 2019 donations.

Full report and signed copy of the accounts for 2019 are attached to these minutes.

HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Ceri Jones impressed how important the OCA has become in the lives of our parents and pupils, who now appreciate the relevance of the OCA through all the work that the OCA has done around innovation, insight evenings, mentoring and networking. Gone are the days when parents ask what the subscription for the Old Caterhamians Association is, they now understand why they are making a termly contribution. The response to the challenge to improve the visibility and engagement of the OCA with current parents and pupils has been quick and effective.

He thanked the OCA for its continued support of valuable initiatives such as the OCA Innovation and Collaboration Award, CSS Insight Evenings, Omnia publications and the CSS networking platform; and for their ongoing support of the Transformational Bursary Campaign.

Full report is attached to these minutes.

ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

Colin Bagnall read from a couple of excerpts of the recently digitised historical school documents.

1. The minutes from the first meeting of the Committee of the Congregational School held in 1811, in which the governors set out the regulations of the School. One of which formed the basis of the whole organisation of the School, whereby the more money each governor gave, the more votes he was entitled to in favour of his preferred choice of boys to receive a free school place.

A subscription of one guinea per annum shall constitute a governor during the continuance of such subscription and that persons subscribing more than one guinea per annum shall be entitled at all elections for children to a vote in respect of every guinea that they should subscribe annually.

2. Purchase of Lewisham premises for £2258-10s. This would have been a most exciting time for the School as it moved from someone's house in West Square, to a huge building that could be expanded into.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Nominations for Officers of the OCA Committee received from the following Old Caterhamians and Old Eothens were approved:

Clive Furness nominated for the post of: President
Proposer: Mark Mear
Secunder: Paul Sharp

Mark Mear nominated for the post of: Vice-President
Proposer: Clive Furness
Secunder: Paul Sharp

Karin Schulte nominated for the post of: Vice-President
Proposer: Clive Furness
Secunder: Paul Sharp

Paul Sharp nominated for the post of: Treasurer
Proposer: Clive Furness
Secunder: Mark Mear

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Clive Furness thanked those present.

Date of next AGM: to be agreed.

Meeting ended 6pm.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS TO THESE MINUTES:

- Approved Minutes of the 128th AGM
- Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2019
- Headmaster's Report
- Archivist's Report
- Sports Club Representative's Report
- Roll Call of Deceased Members