



# Old Colcestrian Society

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD BY WAY OF VIDEO MEETING AT 7 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 09 DECEMBER 2020

### In attendance:

Richard Kemp (Chairman), Dirk Reid (President), Jodee Mayer (Hon Secretary), Russell Smith (Hon Treasurer), supported by 3 other members of the Committee and 18 members of the Society.

### 1. Welcome, introductions and Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman thanking everyone for coming along. the Chairman apologising that we are having to conduct a virtual AGM. The Chairman saying that we postponed as long as we could in the hope that it would be in person but the calendar year was coming to an end.

The Chairman saying that Coronavirus has affected a lot of the OCS activities.

The Chairman saying that members of the OCS have been involved in dealing with the pandemic and some of these are detailed in the Colcestrian magazine.

### 2. Apologies for absence

The Honorary Secretary noting the apologies for absence, as follows:

- Sean Bunch (Membership Secretary)
- Marcus Harrington
- Derek Portsmouth
- Greg Dunn (committee member)
- Chris Miller

No other apologies were put on record.

### 3. Minutes of the last meeting

The Chairman raising one point at item 10 of the minutes of the last AGM in which we amended the Rules of the OCS to allow people to join committee meetings by video link. The Chairman saying we were ahead of ourselves and this year for the first time in history we held a virtual committee meeting.

The Chairman saying we did say agree that it would not be possible to chair a committee meeting by videolink and this will need to be changed. The Honorary Secretary has amended the draft but this will need to be dealt with retrospectively. The Honorary Secretary confirming she will circulate the same with the minutes.

There being no further comments on the minutes, the President proposing the minutes and Michael Green seconding the same. There being no objections, the minutes were adopted.

#### **4. Chairman's Report 2019-20**

The Chairman passing on his thanks to the members of the committee for their work; the Chairman noting all of the committee members are busy people and have busy lives outside of committee.

The Chairman passing on his thanks to the Headmaster and the school staff who have given considerable support to the committee over the past year.

The Chairman thanking the new school captain Emma Crossman, who has joined the committee as an ex-officio member. The Chairman passing on the Society's congratulations on her appointment and thanks in advance for her work on behalf of OCS. Thanks to Daksh Brijwani, the outgoing school captain, who has gone on to study at Imperial College and has a graduate scheme secured.

##### Sports Events

The Chairman noting that since the last AGM we were able to hold some sports events, with a record number of spectators at the tennis, cricket, rugby and netball matches.

##### Dinner 2019

The Chairman noting that we had a successful annual dinner in 2019 and thanks to the President for his speech and to Jamie McCrudden (Dinner Secretary) for organising.

##### Remembrance Events

The Chairman noting that the Remembrance 2019 was marked at the school's event and Past President Greg Dunn laid a wreath on behalf of the OCS.

In July 2019 we held a remembrance event at St George's Church in Ypres where there was a dedication of a plaque in memory of the fallen of the School. The Chairman noting that Laurie Holmes and school pupils, who were on a battlefield tour, were also present.

Remembrance event in November 2020 was a smaller event with the Deputy Head, School Captain and year 11 students, together with an OC in his Sea Cadet Corps uniform where the President laid a wreath.

In addition Jack Wright OC put together an extremely good video which was made available to all forms at the school and circulated to the OCS.

##### Past President's Lunch 2019

This was hosted by Past President Greg Dunn in Mersea in July 2020.

##### HK Dinner

The Chairman noting that whilst Coronavirus has put a stop to most of the events in the UK, the Hong Kong branch were able to host a small dinner in June 2020, which was hosted by President Elect Bryan Carter

##### Legal careers networking event

The Chairman noting his thanks to committee member Quinton Newcombe for organising the same. The Chairman noting that this was attended by a number of members of the society who are in the law and Sir Peter Gross who is a Court of Appeal Judge. The Chairman noting that the event was a great success.

### Events with the School

The Chairman saying that it has been difficult to address students leaving the school. The Chairman noting that we have held membership events remotely, but they have shown the shortcomings of remote events as last year we had 40 or 50 new year 12 members as a result of the event and this year we have had 2 or 3 despite the same number of parents.

The Chairman noting that various prizes have been awarded to the School from the OCS and the details of these will be in the Colcestrian magazine.

The Chairman noting that the OCS sponsored the leaver's yearbook, which offset the cost to the students and there were three pages about the OCS in the yearbook by means of advertising for the society.

### Presidency

The Chairman noting that the highlight of a Presidency is the annual dinner and had Bryan Carter taken over in the summer of 2020 as he should have done he would not have the opportunity to preside over the dinner. As a result Dirk Reid extended his tenure until January 2021 and will then hand over to Bryan Carter.

The Chairman passing his thanks to both Dirk and Bryan for their flexibility and agreeing to extend their tenures to 18 months.

### Books

The Chairman noting we have two books currently for sale:

1. The George Young biography which is for sale through the OCS website, and was produced by Alan Sharp OC. The Chairman noting that this was put together and funded by Alan and that all profits from the book go to the school for music and drama. The Chairman noting thanks to Alan for his time and generosity, which has raised around £1,000 for music and drama at the school so far.
2. *They stand beside us* was produced by Laurie Holmes and Neil Brinded, former Head of Classics at CRGS. The Chairman noting that the book was published in line with the anniversary of VE Day. The Chairman also noting thanks to Michael Green who contributed by writing some biographies and there were a number of other people who also contributed.

The Chairman encouraging purchases of both books and noting that the profit from the World War II book will go into the OCS funds to support the school.

### Colcestrian Magazine

The Chairman noting that the magazine has been delayed due to Covid and its consequences, but it will be published before Christmas. The Chairman noting thanks to Sophie Baines, who is the School's editor, who has had a huge number of commitments in addition to this, and to Harry Carlo, committee member, who is the editor of the OCS contributions.

### Looking Forward

The Chairman noting that we hope to speak to the 2021 leavers and meanwhile we are putting together a video with Jack Wright to send to parents if we cannot do so. We also hope to be able to brief parents of year 12 students.

The Chairman noting that we have seen a take up on Colcestrian Futures and we have had a lot of students who have used the website and gained useful experience and advice from OCS who have volunteered for that service.

## **5. Hon Treasurer's report, presentation and adoption of accounts, appointment of auditors**

The Treasurer saying that seems strange to be presenting accounts relating to the period which finished almost 12 months ago.

The Treasurer summarising the accounts as follows:

- income was £15,285 in 2019 which was up approximately £2,100 on the previous year;
- Expenditure was £11,437 which was down over £3,000 on previous year; and
- Net assets stood at £24,703 at the end of 2019.

The Treasurer saying that we sent late an amendment to the balance sheet, that there were no issues with the 2019 figures, but the comparison figures were from 2017, so these have been sent out with the 2018 figures.

The Treasurer confirming that these were audited by Martin Mears of Peyton Tyler Mears and he has advised he is happy to continue in role of independent reviewer.

The Treasurer presenting the accounts for adoption.

Sol Hyde proposing and Trevor Hearn Seconding and there being no objections these were adopted and the auditor appointed for 2020.

The Chairman thanking the Treasurer for his time. The Chairman noting that the Treasurer was due to stand down at the AGM in summer 2020 but has agreed to serve for another year to make it easier to do a handover of the role.

## **6. Subscriptions and membership for 2019-20**

The Chairman saying that the Membership Secretary is not able to attend and summarising the report which has been circulated as follows:

- The pandemic has meant that we have not been able to present to the school in person and this has shown us how important it is that we have physical presence to promote recruitment
- It is hoped that recruitment will improve as more students use and access Colcestrian Futures
- We have 1656 members, an increase of 68 from AGM
- Of these, over 1300 are permanent members
- The Membership Secretary asking for any updated address details to be emailed to him as soon as possible.

In relation to subscriptions, the Chairman noting that they should stay as they are, and there being no objections the subscriptions are to remain as they are for 2021.

The Chairman noting his thanks to Sean Bunch for the work he has done, not just on membership but on other aspects of the OCS for a number of years.

## **7. Election of Society President 2020-21**

The Chairman reading the nomination as follows:

- Dirk Reid is re-elected President for a term to finish on or around 31 January 2021.
- Bryan Carter is elected President for a term to commence on or around 01 February 2021 and to finish in the Summer of 2022 (date to be confirmed).

Trevor Hearn proposing and Russ Smith seconding; there being no objections the motion was passed.

### President's comments

The President saying that it has been a joy to have been involved in OCS for over 9 years, that he joined the committee in September 2011, and became Secretary in 2013 a position which he held for 5 years.

The President saying he has seen the society going from strength to strength, mainly guided by excellent leadership of Tom Gugliemi, Marcus Harrington and then the Chairman.

The President noting that a sign of the OCS' strength is reflected in attendance at the dinner. The President noting that over half of the attendees are from those that attended the school in the last 10 years, which is a solid foundation for the future of OCS. The President passing his thanks to Jamie McCrudden (Dinner Secretary) who has been instrumental in this.

The President noting that Society membership has increased, and reiterate his thanks to the Membership Secretary for his drive and enthusiasm as membership secretary.

The President noting he has seen increased help to the school; financially in terms of sponsorship of events and the production of the Colcestrian magazine, and thanks to which Harry Carlo (committee member) who has given so much time, and also pastorally through Colcestrian Futures which has been a great success.

The President noting that the last 9 months have been a strange time, but he has been uplifted by 2 aspects of the OCS, the first being the success of the committee in keeping the show on the road without the usual headline events of the reunion and dinner. The President noting that there has been much work in the background keeping things ticking along. Secondly, by the knowledge that many former CRGS students have been helping to tackle the virus and formulate a way out of the crisis, and their education at CRGS must be the bedrock of this.

The President saying it has been a privilege to be President, passing his best wishes to the President Elect and saying the OCS are in safe hands.

The Chairman saying thanks to the President for his work as secretary and president.

### President Elect's comments

The President Elect noting his thanks to the Chairman for the chance to say a few words.

The President Elect saying it was about a year ago that the Chairman asked if President Elect if he would consider the role of President. The President Elect saying that after the initial shock he asked the Chairman why they would want president who lives in Hong Kong. The Chairman noted that, in normal circumstances, the President Elect is in England so often and the President Elect noting this would normally be 4 or 5 times a year and being retired these can be tied in with the events of society. The President Elect saying he therefore humbly agreed.

The President Elect noting that then the world turned upside down and so for someone who normally spends more time on a plane than the President who is a pilot, he has not seen an airplane for 11 months. The President Elect saying he is hoping that next year there will be the chance to do so and by summer when first real events start in UK he will be able to travel.

The President Elect saying he is looking forward to his 18 months tenure, and getting get back to the UK.

The President Elect thanking the Chairman and committee for giving him the opportunity to come back to the school he left some 57 years ago.

The President Elect passing his thanks to the President who has covered for the President Elect through Covid for an additional 6 months.

The President Elect saying he looks forward to meeting face to face.

The Chairman saying that the President Elect has been a strong and generous supporter of the society and we are looking forward to his time as president.

#### **8. Election of Society Officers for 2020-21**

The Chairman noting that Sean Bunch will be remaining in place as Membership Secretary for 2 reasons; the first is that we have had IT problems and so he did not feel able to hand over. These are now pretty much resolved, however, they need to bed in and the second reason is that doing a handover, which is complicated, in the circumstances of Covid is going to be problematic.

The Chairman reading the nominations as follows:

- Richard Kemp is re-elected Chairman for the year 2020-2021.
- Jodee Mayer is re-elected Honorary Secretary for the year 2020-2021.
- Russell Smith is re-elected Honorary Treasurer for the year 2020-2021.
- Sean Bunch is elected Honorary Membership Secretary for the year 2020-2021.

This was proposed by Trevor Hearn and seconded by Alan Sharp; there being no objections the motion was passed.

#### **9. Election of Ordinary Members of the Committee for 2019-20**

The Chairman reading the nomination as follows:

The following are re-elected as Ordinary Members of the Committee for the year 2019-2020:

- Lewis Barber;
- Harry Carlo;
- Greg Dunn;
- Jamie McCrudden; and
- Quinton Newcomb.

Richard Storey proposing and Russ Smith seconding; there being no objections the motion was passed.

#### **10. Any other business**

The Treasurer recording his thanks on behalf of the society to the Chairman, for his drive and passion in furthering the aims of the Society.

Harry Carlo (committee member) noting it has been a difficult year for the Colcestrian, mostly due to delays with the School's submissions. The Chairman noting that we can forgive the school for this in the circumstances where they have been doing fabulous work in unpredictable times.

Harry Carlo saying that at Christmas the OCS part of the magazine had 2 submissions, and by Easter just 3 submissions, with a flurry arriving in June and July. Harry noting that OCS do not have to wait until the copy date to send articles in, and these can be submitted as they become available and Harry asking that they are sent in as soon as possible.

Laurie Holmes noting that she purchased and passed a purple bound book notebook to the Past Presidents to record their memories and this has become lost. Past President Trevor Hearn confirming he has not seen it. Laurie asking for an appeal to be sent and the Chairman confirming this would be done. The Chairman thanking Laurie for all of her help and service to the school and to the OCS. Laurie echoing the Treasurer's comments regarding the Chairman's input. The Chairman thanking Neil Brinded for his input as well.

With there being no further business raised, the Chairman giving his good wishes for the rest of the year and wishes for a much better 2020/21.