



# Old Colcestrian Society

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT COLCHESTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT 10 A.M. ON FRIDAY JUNE 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

### In attendance:

Richard Kemp (Chairman), Greg Dunn (President), Jodee Mayer (Hon Secretary), Russell Smith (Hon Treasurer), Sean Bunch (Hon Membership Secretary) supported by 2 other members of the Committee and 17 members of the Society.

The Headmaster, John Russell, took the opportunity before the meeting started to welcome the Society members back to CRGS, and thank the OCS for doing so much for the School. The Chairman thanked the Headmaster on behalf of the Society for all the support that he had given over the year.

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

The Chairman thanking everyone for coming and a special thanks to those whose first meeting it is. The Chairman making introductions as follows:

- School Captain Daksh Brijwani;
- Head girl Tess Hayton; and
- Head Boy Sam Fowler.

The Chairman advising that the School Captain traditionally comes to meetings, as an ex-officio member of the Committee, and thanking the previous School Captain for the strong contributions he made to the work of the Society and Committee

The Chairman noting the role of the School's student leadership in promoting the Society and membership as without those leaving the School joining the Society would not be able to function.

The Chairman running through the format for the day and thanks to the Honorary Secretary for her assistance in getting the day organised.

### 2. Apologies for absence

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

- Dirk Reid (incoming President)
- Harry Carlo (Committee Member)
- Nigel Chapman
- Stephen Everitt
- John Melton
- Tom Cannon
- Alan Sharp
- Chris Turton
- John Godden

- John Richmond
- Marcus Harrington
- Darrel Chart-Boyles (Deputy Head)
- Ian Sutherland; and
- Richard Story.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

There being no comments on them, the minutes of the last AGM were proposed by Chris Millett and seconded by Mike Green.

4. Chairman's Report 2018-19

The Chairman provided his report on the activities carried out by the Society since the last AGM as follows:

(a) Website

We now have our own website which will be up and running fully shortly. This will link to various things and importantly to Colcestrian Futures. The Chairman noting that this will allow signing up to the Society as well as payment for events and merchandise.

(b) Books

*'None have done better'* was published at the end of 2018 and contains the biographies of former pupils and staff of the School killed in WW1 and essays about WW1.

The Chairman noting this is available from the OCS or from Laurie Holmes.

Former president Trevor Hearn, who is with us today, published the history of CRGS. The Chairman noting that nothing like this has ever been produced before and this is available from Amazon and Red Lion Books.

(c) Remembrance service 2018

The President laid a wreath in the town event on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Society and School.

(d) Annual dinner and Rugby and Netball

The Chairman noting that this went extremely well and was a good event; the rugby was the best attended yet in terms of supporters. The majority of people at the Dinner left in last 5 years.

Chairman of Essex CC, John Jowers, was guest of honor and gave a speech

(e) Keeble Cup

Football match in memory of Vic Keeble, greatest footballer produced by the School.

(f) Stall manned by Sean Buncg at CRGSA autumn fayre

(g) Hong Kong branch

The Hong Kong branch of the Society is up and running and they have held a Parents' dinner, which was attended by the President and his wife. There was also a further event on 15 March in Hong Kong and this was also attended by the President.

(h) Ramsay Dinner

A Dinner to commemorate the role played by Admiral Ramsay OC, and other pupils and staff, in the D-Day operations took place in the Garrisons' Officers Club on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

The dinner was attended by the grandson of Admiral Ramsay, Charlie Ramsay, the Headmaster, Mayor of Colchester and a number of teachers and OCs and current pupils. Also in attendance were three Royal Navy members in uniform. A message was read to the Dinner attendees from the head of the Royal Navy.

The Chairman recorded his thanks to Jamie McCrudden (Dinner Secretary) for organising the same.

- (i) Upper Sixth final assembly heard from members of the Committee
  - (j) Certificate tea
  - (k) 10 year reunion in April 2019
  - (l) Prizes
    - New prize introduced being the Rob Stebbing Prize for Selflessness, created by Colin Gibson and three other former pupils in memory of Rob Stebbing who died after he left the School.
    - Travel prize and bursary awarded by Derek Wyatt
  - (m) Financial grants made to the Rugby team, young enterprise as well as USB wristbands given to every member of year 7.
  - (n) Tom Cullen, the oldest recorded living OC, died during the course of the year at the age of 102.
  - (o) Dr Laurie Bristow, the UK's Ambassador to Moscow, was knighted in the New Years' Honours
  - (p) Sophie Farrant OC was in the varsity rugby team for Cambridge which beat Oxford. Our other varsity player, Matt Watson, was ill and unable to play.
  - (q) Future events
    - 10 July 2019 - ceremony at Ypres in Belgium at St George's church dedicating a plaque placed in the church to commemorate former pupils and staff killed in WW1.
    - Past President's lunch will take place on Mersea on 12 July 2019 for those of you that are eligible to attend.
    - WW2 project that Laurie Holmes and Neil Brinded are organising which is to recognise the dead from the school of WW2 in a book and lay poppy crosses on their graves as we did for those of WW1.
5. Hon Treasurer's report, presentation and adoption of accounts, appointment of auditors
- The Honorary Treasurer noting that income was slightly higher in 2018 than 2017, but also that expenditure was slightly higher and so we had a deficit of £1,610.
- Net assets at end of 2018 stand at £20,865.

The Honorary Treasurer reporting that we have the facility to accept payments through the website which is proving popular. This is currently only for subscriptions but will also be available for events and merchandise.

Accounts were proposed by Trevor Hearn and seconded by Quinton Newcomb.

The Honorary Treasurer recorded his thanks to Payton Tyler Mears for reviewing the accounts this year.

Payton Tyler Mears were proposed as the auditors for next year by the Honorary Treasurer and seconded by Derek Drew.

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

This report was provided by Sean Bunch, who has been acting as Membership Secretary. Sean noting that Terry Wilby was unable to continue in post and stepped down and Lewis Barber is hoping to take over the role of Membership Secretary later in the meeting.

Sean noting a net increase of 74 members since the last AGM; we have lost some Members during the year including the passing of 2 past Presidents. Sean noting that the joiners have not been quite as high from the current leavers.

Sean noting that we are getting on to double the number of Members that we had around 5 years ago and a huge amount of progress has been made in those 5 years.

Sean politely asking the Members to notify the Society of any change of details.

The Chairman thanking Sean for his input. The Chairman noting that membership is low for a society that has been going since 1900 and asking the Members to consider anyone that could become a member.

#### 7. Election of Society President 2019-20

The outgoing President recorded his comments that it has been a great honour to be President of the Society, and specifically so in this year as it has been a big year and noting that Past President Trevor Hearn had told him that attendance at Armistice Day would be the most moving of the formal duties and he was right.

The outgoing President noting his appeal for the restoration of the school organ, which has stalled for the reason that the OCS is not a registered charity and in order to obtain 20% gift aid on the donations by private individuals we have to be registered as a charity. He noted that we are going through the process of appointing a pro bono solicitor who is an OC to take us through this process and then the appeal will start.

The outgoing President recorded his thanks for the assistance that he has received during the year from the committee.

The Chairman recording his thanks to the outgoing President, noting that he has travelled around the world and stepped up to do what needed to be done.

The Chairman stating that we are nominating Dirk Reid for election as President for the next academic year. The Chairman noting that he is previous Honorary Secretary of the Committee and a current Committee member as well as being a full time British Airways pilot.

Proposer – Greg Dunn  
Secunder – Chris Miller

Passed by full majority

The now President provided a message to be read in his absence, recording his apologies for not being available to attend, thanks to the outgoing President and that he considers it a privilege to be President for the forthcoming year.

#### 8. Election of Society Officers for 2019-20

The Chairman noting the motions and proposing that these are dealt with under one vote.

The proposals are as follows:

- Richard Kemp is re-elected Chairman;
- Jodee Mayer is re-elected Honorary Secretary;
- Russell Smith is re-elected Honorary Treasurer;
- Lewis Barber is elected Honorary Membership Secretary; and
- Bryan Carter is elected President Elect.

The Chairman noting that Bryan Carter has been proposed as President to take over from Dirk in due course and the constitution currently requires us to propose him at this stage. The Chairman noting that Bryan was at the School from 1958 to 1963 and he now lives in Hong Kong primarily but also has a residence in the UK. The Chairman noting that Bryan has been an excellent member of the Society, that he has been the main sponsor of the Headmaster's Initiative at the annual dinner and he usually sponsors 20 people for this. In addition he has formed and is currently Chairman of the Hong Kong branch of the Society, which after London and Colchester is the next biggest centre of OCs.

Proposer – Trevor Hearn  
Secunder – Dick Barton

Passed by full majority.

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

The proposals for the election of the Committee are as follows:

- Greg Dunn be elected;
- Quinton Newcomb be elected;
- Sean Bunch be re-elected;
- Harry Carlo be re-elected; and
- Jamie McCrudden be re-elected.

The Chairman noting that Quinton volunteered for Committee last year and has been serving for a year already, but is standing for election for his first year.

Proposer: Lewis Barber  
Secunder: Chris Miller

Passed by full majority

#### 10. Amendments to the Society Rules

Honorary Secretary noting that the rules were drafted some time ago and, due to the fact that the Committee are largely in full time employment, we need to amend the rules to allow for the Committee to function on behalf of the Society. This includes allowing voting on motions by email to avoid delay in the carrying out of the Society's functions in between meetings, in relation to quorum, attending meetings by video link etc.

It was noted that a member should not be able to chair a meeting by videolink or other means. JRM noting that this will be amended and proposing the amendments, which was seconded by Jake Humbles and passed by full majority.

11. Reunion Day 2019

The Chairman noting this was covered in Item 1.

12. Any other business

Sean Bunch noting that various items of merchandise are available for purchase including Admiral Ramsay Ties, cufflinks and caps.

Quinton Newcomb noting that he is hoping to arrange a legal careers day in September 2019 and asking for any volunteers who can assist with this to speak with him.

A question was posed about the cost of the renovation of the organ. Greg Dunn noting that this work was started by Laurie Holmes around 3 years ago and a quote of £200,000 was received. He has approached Bishops, who installed it, and they have quoted £50,000 to get it back up and running and he is hoping to raise an additional £4-5,000 to allow the installation of a trumpet and another row of pipes. Greg noting that if the school can offer organ studies that is a slightly easier route into Oxbridge and is of great appeal to pupils from Hong Kong.

Sean Bunch noting that Greg Dunn mentioned looking to employ pro bono employer; Sean confirming that we have signed up with someone and we were hoping for advice by today but that has not come through yet.

The Chairman reiterating his thanks to the committee and closing the meeting.