

THE CHOLMELEIAN SOCIETY
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 129th Annual General Meeting of The Cholmeleian Society will be held at 5.30pm on 29 June 2022.

23 participants

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Richard Brewster (RDB) welcomed OCs to the meeting and declared that a quorum of OCs present.

RDB introduced members of the OC General Committee before moving to the items on the agenda.

2. Minutes of the 128th Annual General Meeting.

The approval of the Minutes of the AGM was proposed by Richard Brewster, seconded by Andy Savva.

The minutes of the 128th meeting unanimously approved.

3. Reports and accounts: Rule 14(a)1.

Treasurer's report on financial matters – Tony Friend (TF)

- Investment income is up due to special dividends that were paid on investments.
- Plans for expenditure for 2022 have been included in a budget as per the new OC agreement with the school.
- OC Society portfolio is managed by JM Finn: this is 0.3% down for the year, which is satisfactory given the volatile financial markets.
- It was noted that Markand Patel, previous OC treasurer, had been helpful in identifying a box of files of old OC correspondence including letters and tax returns from HMRC including a tax reference number for the Society. The Society still has not heard from HMRC whether it will incur any further tax liability.

John Zani proposed the approval of the accounts, Paul Davis seconded.
The accounts were approved unanimously

¹ References are to relevant rules in 'Rules of the Cholmeleian Society'.

4. To approve the OC rules - RDB

RDB explained that the rules had not been amended for ten years. A barrister had been appointed with a brief to include greater inclusion and diversity. The amendments made to the Rules being less gender specific and including reference to expected acceptable standards of behaviour by OCs at OC events. These rules had been made available to OCs on the OC website two weeks ago.

Darren Selkus proposed the approval of these amended rules, seconded by Peter Jensen. These changes were approved unanimously.

5. To receive the following reports.

President's Report – RDB

Highlights of the year

- Throughout the year there have been a good formula of reunions, which have been very well attended and resulted in much excitement and socialising between OCs, particularly at the 1980s event.
- The ambition of RDB during Presidency, aside from establishing correct governance, has been to welcome OCs back to events, especially those who had not attended previously or for a long period. Whilst important to continue to engage older OCs, it has been important to provide activities to improve diversity in terms of age and gender. Positively, even with covid still a worry for some, the annual lunch was sold out. This OC spirit has been evident at recent events, including the very successful Creative Arts and Entrepreneurship events, and certainly within Football where OC first team were champions and 2nd team also promoted.
- The Society is in good shape, as are relations with the school.
- The new OC website has been launched and is providing better information – OCs encouraged to provide stories of all aspects of OC life, including deaths. Thoughts and blessings were with all OCs who had passed away during the year, and it was noted that two former Presidents and stalwarts of the Society had died: Colin Dean (TL 1947) and Jeffrey Breslaw (MG 1947).
- The OC Business Section has been focusing on new initiatives and OCs will be encouraged to sign up to join this active part of OC life, where they will be able to advertise their businesses. The Head of the OCBS Entrepreneurship, Dein Harry, ran an excellent event hosted by OC Ollie Bishop (SH 1990), at which OC Richard Moross (QG 1991) spoke about all aspects of developing a successful business. OCs should expect to hear more soon.
- RDB thanked the OC committee for being so dedicated and supportive. He also thanked the Development Office for their extensive support, and the promotion of the Society especially due to Stuart Evans connections with OCs who have left school over the past twenty years. RDB expressed gratitude to the Head, Adam Pettitt, for the school's support, as well as his personal wise counsel on governance and financial matters.

Sports Section Report

RDB handed over to Nina Sorenson to present the Sport's' Report.

- Nina is taking over from Alberto Fraquelli as Head of the Sports committee. Nina has been working as deputy for the past three years and gave thanks to Alberto for all his commitment and support. The main aims over the past year have been to unify the various sports on offer to OCs, through OC sports days involving matches with the school, as well as sports club socials. Another aim is to embed a common branding of kit through the club, which will be through a training top initially, as well as explore the opportunities to unify the club further at Hendon Wood Lane.
- Recruiting a deputy to support Nina is a priority, especially as her work and study commitments increase later in the year. Nina asked for all OCs present for recommendations.
- The use of social media continues to improve, as a means of recruiting and unifying the clubs. Emily Scoones has experience of this and as a fellow member of the Committee continues to support all sport activities whilst running OC Fives.
- There have been lots of teams and lots of success. Football has already been mentioned, but Netball currently sits second in their league and have a good group of young OCs playing. Fives continues to thrive, with Emily Scoones and Jonny Ho winning the National Mixed title.

RDB thanked Nina and all sports captains for their reports and also expressed thanks to Alberto for his excellent service as the first chair of the Sports Committee.

RDB opened the floor for questions from the attendees:

- Peter Jensen raised the possibility of having an event at HWL for all OCs to attend, to raise awareness of the site. RDB stated that this was a good idea, but perhaps not until refurbishments had taken place. Nina Sorenson stated that the sports committee already had plans to do this.
- John Zani stated that agreement between the trustees and the school have reached agreement bar one or two points relating to the MOU. Plans involved modifying the clubhouse, so that it is in good state for school and OCs to use.
- Mike Hammerson asked if the connection of the London Wildlife trust to HWL could be utilised better, perhaps with the school, so that pupils became more aware of the site.
- Tony Selkus asked about access arrangements at HWL. John Zani reported that this is within the plans and that the school recognises need for safe entry of coaches via pushing back entrance or on different part of the road, though there is sensitivity required.

- Peter Jensen asked if naming rights had been explored. RDB responded that this is a possibility in future.

6. To elect Officers: Rules 14, 9 and 8(a)

RDB outlined the role of the nominations committee, which was set up to process recommendations of OCs for election to the General committee. The nomination process involves submission of candidate CVs and interview before proposal to the committee.

- Demi Abiola and Ross McCaskill were proposed as new officers, approved by Markand Patel, seconded by Tony Selkus. Election approved unanimously.
- Hazem Megerisi, Nina Sorenson and Pritpal Singh were prepared to be re-elected after retiring by rotation, according to OC rules. All proposed by Martin Pyrke, seconded by John Rokos. Election approved unanimously.
- RDB thanked Alberto Fraquelli and David Green, who wished to retire from the committee as business commitments grew. RDB thanked them for their service and commitment and hoped they would return in the future.
- Martin Pyrke has served as Deputy President for the past year, with RDB stating that Martin had been a source of great support and a true friend to the Committee. RDB proposed that he become the next OC President, seconded by Paul Davies. Election approved unanimously. RDB thanked Jon Polledri for his sterling work as Immediate Past President, over three and half years.
- Martin Pyrke thanked RDB for his superb leadership of the OC society and was grateful that Richard would be playing an active role in supporting the OCBS. Martin also welcomed Demi and Ross to the committee, before outlining his aim to build on the excellent work of RDB, enhance the diversity of OC sport, and support the development of HWL project.
- Martin Pyrke announced that he wished to propose John Zani as the OC Deputy President. This was seconded by Andy Savva and the election approved unanimously.

7. Any Other Business: Rule 14(d) - MP

There had been no requests to the Honorary Secretary for any other business to be discussed.

The formal business of the meeting was concluded

8. Address from the Head

Adam Pettitt (ASP) thanked RDB for his efforts, support, and friendship over the course of his Presidency. He also spoke of so many successes and in particular his work in bringing the Society and the school together.

ASP thanked Nina for speaking and for serving others so well.

- All school activities have returned with a flourish this year, including residential trips to Lille and Northumbria, as well as CCF camps and foreign exchanges.
- Independent reviews have taken place by both Haringey and ISI inspection. The school has welcomed this and taken seriously all allegations regarding anti sexism and sexual violence. The school is committed to battling these, as well as misogyny, racism. It remains committed to ensuring that the school welcomes diversity and everyone.
- The school recognises that things have and can go wrong within the school community both in the past and in the future and is committed to being open and responsive.
- There is excitement regarding HWL. The governors have committed over half a million pounds to a rebuild of the clubhouse, so that OCs and pupils can continue to play sport, make friendships, and keep healthy.
- The school has recently welcomed pupils from Ukraine and is looking for more spaces.
- The school has launched a parents participation programme as part of the bursary programme, this involves parents agreeing for £100 per term to be added to fees of the oldest child. ASP recorded that the school is the first in the country to begin a bursary programme in a junior school.
- The school remains committed to LAE Tottenham, where 600 pupils (many of whom on free school meals) receive a high - quality education. Highgate seconds staff to the school, with the majority of pupils gaining places at Russell Group universities.
- ASP echoed thanks to the School Development Office and again to RDB for ensuring that the society has a separate identity, whilst nurturing a closer friendship with the school.

Stuart Evans, Honorary Secretary
29 June