



Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting of The Old Lancing Club was held in virtual format on 20th May 2021 commencing at 5.00pm.

A quorum of members was present, with good remote attendance.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Committee member Rob Black.
2. **To approve the minutes of the AGM held virtually on 17th September 2020 and matters arising.**
Sir Tim Rice, President, noted the Minutes were published and recommended they be taken as read. No matters arising were noted.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **To receive the Chairman's report of The Old Lancing Club.**
The Chairman, in his parting address, noted the good levels of activity of the Committee in terms of virtual support for members of the OL Club.
During the year the Club made a donation of £10,000 to the College's Hardship Fund, with appreciation received from the Head Master.
The Committee, along with the Parents' Associations, provided £10,000 as a gesture of support for all 350 staff at the College, including a gift of English Hindleap champagne organised by Committee member Fflur Jones.
Chairman thanked Felix Aylett, and the College, for their efforts in smoothly moving the investment portfolio to Rathbones, and for his planning for the OLClub Associations Dinner set for 15th October 2021.
Priscilla Stevens has successfully put in motion a database of OL Bio's for Lancing students' use; Rob Walker has activated some Professional networking sessions, both live and virtual, including Law, Financial Services and Media. A Careers Day was held online for 6th Formers with 8 OLs.
A revised MOU with the College, updating the working relationship, was successfully agreed, with the help of the Secretary, and has recently been signed off. The OL Club continues as an independent body working actively and symbiotically with the College. The finances of the Club, after the major donations of this year and the donation towards the Chapel completion and the ongoing donations to the Foundoners appeal, remain satisfactory and the portfolio is now under active management.
Committee held 5 remote meetings and the 2020 AGM, assisted by Emily Cloney as Communications Co-ordinator; Emily Cullen and Alec Rickard have been working on ideas for different formats of events for 2021; long-standing VPs Nick Evans and Anthony Phillips have acted as the institutional memory for the Club; Nick has also been the Sports clubs coordinator and Anthony has been a participant at AROPS and has addressed anew all Officer role descriptions, which are now ready for signoff by the new Chairman.

Chairman thanked Timothy Poole for his efforts in the role of Secretary, extended owing to the pandemic to 6 years.

He stressed the importance and value of getting OLs to assist the Committee in different ways, such as in marketing, mentoring, at events and involving the current students.

Questions from the floor were: would the numbers on the Committee be streamlined? – that would be up to the newly reconstituted Committee, reflecting the number of roles required. Will the MOU be published? – Yes, though it's not yet agreed where and when.

A brief update on the curtailed Sports agenda was given – Football, squash and Golf (inactive till Sept. 2021), Fives and Rifle shooting (2 events held at Bisley).

Chairman finished with thanks to the volunteer members of the Committee and its sub-committees.

4. To receive and approve the Accounts of the Club for the year ending 31 December 2020.

Treasurer noted that the Accounts were prepared, and signed off after review by independent auditor in April.

In the year 2020 dividends had fallen, reflecting economic circumstances, while subscriptions rose somewhat reflecting leaver numbers. Expenses on publication, social events and sports fell materially, leaving a substantial surplus. Capital gains arising from the portfolio reassignment were more than covered by the £160,000 of donations to the varied College causes, leaving a healthy financial position.

For 2021 Treasurer expects to see lower Subs due to leaver numbers, and lower dividends reflecting the revised portfolio investment approach. Expenses will remain lower than usual though. He thanked the Committee, on behalf of the College, for its donations over the year.

Request to approve the accounts was carried by polling with 98% in favour.

5. To elect Officers of The Club; according to the Rules, Officers shall retire at the AGM but may be re-elected.

The President, Chairman, Communications Co-ordinator and Secretary are all standing down. Nigel Bennett was proposed for the role of Chairman; approved by 91% with some abstentions;

Neal Peckham was proposed for the role of Secretary, approved by 91% vote;

Emily Cullen was proposed for the role of Communications Co-ordinator, approved by 94% vote.

There were no nominations for the role of President.

6. To elect 2 new members of the Committee. The 3-year terms of Felix Aylett and Fflur Jones have ended.

2 members have offered themselves and were duly nominated for election: Rosie Scott (Manor 2002-7) and Luke Davies (Heads & Gibbs 2011-6) were elected with 96% and 94% votes respectively.

President welcomed them both to membership of the Committee.

7. To deal with any other business for which the Secretary had received at least 14 days' notice.

Questions from the floor: what costs would apply to production of the Quad this year, and why no mention of Seconds House? – work was still being done, and all Houses will get due mention.

Comment from Jonathan Meyrick, as provost of the Chapel – he gave grateful thanks for the Club contribution towards completion of the Chapel. The College and the Prep Schools remain in good heart in the current circumstances.

Jeremy Arney (in Canada) and David Rosemont (in France) thanked all parties for the opportunity to participate virtually; David R asked if a meeting would ever be held in France – Chairman responded that it depended on numbers of OLs in a particular country – such as possibly in Germany where there are healthy numbers.

Charles Standing asked if the Committee intended to keep the virtual option for AGMs – for 2021 it was a necessity, and Committee will likely retain a hybrid option as it allowed for more OL geographic coverage.

Graham Robinson, VP on the Committee, thanked the Chairman for the good job he had done over the last 3 years, with all the changes being planned and carried through effectively.

He also gave his sincere gratitude to Sir Tim Rice, voted in unanimously as President in 2005, who had maintained an active role in Club events, dinners, and carol services; a gift would be delivered to him from the OL Club in due course.

The Meeting was declared closed at 6.05pm.

The Secretary
The Old Lancing Club
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