



Annual General Meeting 2020

The Annual General Meeting of The Old Lancing Club was held via Zoom webinar on Thursday 17th September 2020 commencing at 5.00pm.

A quorum of members was present, with peak attendance at 92.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Nick Evans (who later did join).
2. **To approve the minutes of the AGM held at The National Liberal Club, London on 23rd May 2019.**
Sir Tim Rice, President, noted the Minutes were published in the Quad and circulated, and recommended they be taken as read.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **To receive the Chairman's report of The Old Lancing Club.**
The Chairman started by thanking the members who were attending the AGM remotely, noting that over 120 had registered, and represented a wide range of years of College attendance and were based in numerous countries, evidencing wider demographics than a normal AGM; he advised that the Committee had held 5 meetings in the year, the latest being held remotely; despite the restrictions of the Covid crisis, Committee continued to promote the mission of the Club to its members. The Professional Networking program under Rob Walker had been active prior to lockdown, and Club members had participated in the College's Careers Day and in setting up University Ambassadors. Chairman thanked Emily Cullen for promoting the Lancing Connected site, where nearly 1000 members have now joined. The Events program has necessarily been re-worked in 2020, with a focus on the 30-55 age group, and Emily Cloney has liaised regularly with the College Foundation team in the production of 8 newsletters and inclusion of Club activities in 3 Quad magazines. Chairman was pleased to announce the success of the Cricket team in the Cricketers Trophy, and the winning of the Halford Hewitt Plate by the Golf team. A successful cross-sports Dinner was held.
The Club continues to provide funding for the Foundationers program, which is proceeding successfully, and has committed a material sum toward the completion of the Chapel, and also for the Ken Shearwood Sports Pavilion. These commitments will incur expenditure of about £200,000 from Club funds.
Chairman finished with thanks to the volunteer members of the Committee and its sub-committees, to the Foundation Office, and to the College for its support on the organisation of this AGM.

4. **To receive and approve the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019.**
Treasurer firstly commented that Dividends through Q2'2020 had fallen some 11% due to sales of investments and market conditions, and that he expected this lower level to be maintained going forward; subscription levels recorded were inflated by the payment from

the College of £16,000 of prior subscriptions; costs for Social events were lower due to cancellations; and that the current value of the portfolio was lower by 16% since the Covid crisis began, excluding sales of assets.

Accounts were approved unanimously.

5. Proposal to adjust the Organisational and Governance Structure of the OL Club.

The proposal had been previously circulated to all members; Chairman ran through a summary and made a presentation of factors relevant to the members, most importantly the need to ensure a suitable structure of the Club to provide cover for the responsibilities incurred by Committee members in the organisation of sporting and social events, the management of Bank accounts, the investment portfolio, drawing up of annual accounts, and avoidance of personal liability.

Simon Hodson, external review team leader, commented on research undertaken on comparables with other schools, the possible alternative legal structures (and reasons why those were unsuitable), and on the involvement of College representatives on the Committee while ensuring its decision-making independence.

On opening the floor to questions, Members asked about the separation of funds in the investment portfolios, if independent review of Accounts would continue, whether in the future amendments or course corrections were possible, on the cost effects of the changes, whether College representatives should be able to vote, if Sports Clubs would lose funding, if the Committee would retain its independence in financial decision-making, and if the change would have a negative effect on taxes due. Chairman and Treasurer were able to answer all these questions to everyone's satisfaction.

Some Members, with experience as Governors at other institutions, also offered their support in favour of the proposal.

The Proposal was approved by an overwhelming majority.

6. Approval of such amendments to the Club Rules to enable the Proposal above.

These included the appointment to the Committee of the Headmaster, the Foundation Director and the Bursar as voting members.

The amendments were approved unanimously.

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

The President, Chairman, Secretary and Communications Coordinator had expressed their willingness to stand again.

First, President called for a vote to amend the Rules to allow Officers to hold tenure for up to 6 years rather than 5, to allow continuity.

This was approved by an overwhelming majority.

8. Re-election of Officers of the Club.

All officers were re-elected unanimously.

9. Ratification of the co-option of Anthony Phillips to the Committee.

He was co-opted at the Committee meeting of 18 June 2019 to assist with administrative matters across sub-Committees and handover of the Communications role.

Approved by an overwhelming majority.

10. To elect 2 new members of the Committee. The 3-year terms of Philip Bailey, Oscar Elliston and Richard Black have ended.

3 members offered themselves and were duly nominated for election: Robert Black and Priscilla Stevens were elected by majority vote.

President welcomed them both to membership of the Committee.

11. To deal with Any Other Business.

Anthony Phillips proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for his efforts on the reorganisation proposal for the OL Club, which was duly given.

A member complimented the Communications team for the good organisation of the remote AGM, allowing new members to participate, and recommended that future AGMs have a hybrid method of attendance.

Provost thanked the Committee for their substantial contribution of funds for the completion of the Chapel.

The Meeting was declared closed at 6.10pm.

The Secretary
The Old Lancing Club
(olclubsecretary@outlook.com)