

THE OLD RUSSELLIANS
(Founded 1890)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
6.30pm Saturday 29th November 2008
Library, Royal Russell School, Croydon

MINUTES

The objectives of the The Old Russellians are:

- **To keep Old Russellians in touch with one another**
- **To organise social and sporting events**
- **To publish a regular newsletter**
- **To keep Old Russellians informed of all matters of interest regarding the School.**

Present:

Chairman: Karl Yabsley (1978-1982)

Henry Alger (1991-1996), Brian Angel (1938-1947), Jonathan Davis (O.R. Treasurer) (1987-1992), Robert Fisher (1996-2002), Charles Froy (1992-1998), Chris Gough (1951-1955), John Jennings (RRS Headmaster), Simon Jones (1991-1998), James Lacey (1988-1993), Julia Powell (O.R. Correspondent), Nick Smith (2000-2005), Sue Tanner – Minutes (O.R. Membership Secretary), Derek Taylor (1944-1952), Peter Taylor (1944-1952)

1. The meeting was opened at 6.35pm by the Chairman, Karl Yabsley, who welcomed all those present. Notice of the AGM was posted on the website, announced in the autumn newsletter and the meeting was quorate.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Neil Anthony, Jane Bruce, Kemal Chaudhri
3. **Previous Minutes**
Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24th November 2007 were emailed with relevant photos to all attendees on 3rd December 2007, and appeared on the website on 22nd January 2008. Any changes were completed prior to publishing on the website.
The Minutes were therefore accepted as a true record, and were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising** None
5. **Chairman's Remarks**
The Chairman, Mr Karl Yabsley, thanked the Headmaster, Dr John Jennings and the Bursar, Mr Paul Barlow, for all their support over the year and the use of school premises for many O.R. events. The Headmaster took that opportunity to formally thank the Chairman for his hard work and input to the Society, and support at all school events. The Chairman then thanked Mr Brian Angel for all the research he carries throughout the year, providing us with interesting articles for both the newsletters and website. We would be lost without his knowledge and enthusiasm. Two recent articles made fascinating reading – those of the two Dukes of Devonshire and also of the O.R. Titanic survivor. The Chairman expressed his thanks to both Julia and Powell and Sue Tanner for their dedication and hard work and support through the year. They provide the backbone for the administration of the O.R.s. The website and newsletter appear to be popular for O.R.s. Sue and Julia work hard on these and getting articles in from people. The events

during the year have been very successful – the football tournament, riverside reunion, WC&DS garden party hosted by Pam Turtle. Also the Sydney reunion was very successful. There is a lot of work to be done for next year's May Reunion, and the Chairman thanked his committee for all their hard work and support over the year and looks forward to working with them again next year.

6. Annual Report by Julia Powell

Compared to this time last year, when we had 3,400 records on the database, we now have 5,352. This is as a result of inputting all school rolls from 1993 to date. Membership stands at 524 compared to 511 last year, of which 224 are annual paid up members and 300 are student members (compared to 221 and 290 respectively). We have names, dobs and dates in and out of school for 4,470 people, email addresses for only 825, and mail addresses for 1,666. This is something that needs to be worked upon during the upcoming year. There are nearly 3,000 O.R.s who we have no contact details for.

Julia has spent a considerable time looking through old registers and has come up with over a hundred names, dobs and dates in and out which can now go onto the database. Finding addresses for all these people will be the next job!

This has been a quieter year as far as school based functions have been concerned but not in other ways.

Immediately following last year's AGM, we had a very enjoyable Annual Dinner in the Dining Hall. For the first time we had the Duke of Edinburgh Award students both setting up and waiting at table. The idea worked well and proved an excellent opportunity for O.R.s and current students to talk to one another. Again, for the first time, the committee cleared away at the end of the evening so that the room was ready for boarders' breakfast the next day. During the evening a large sum of money was taken for a raffle that was held to raise money for the cricket tour to Grenada.

Our next formal input to the school was Karl reading one of the lessons at the carol service.

With Easter being so early this year, the annual O.R. Football tournament took place right at the beginning of the Summer Term. The tournament was run, as successfully as ever, by Steve Greaves and was well attended by both players and supporters alike. The six teams were organised and captained by former students. After the tournament, there was a request from some of the girls that they would like a sporting event to run at the same time. 2009 will see the first girls' annual netball tournament which we hope will become as successful as the football has been.

We had to move the venue for the 'Riverside Reunion on the Thames' to The Old Thameside Inn (the pub next door to the Anchor), in June as our former 'watering hole' was closed for refurbishment. The evening was a lot cooler than in previous years and this probably accounted for the slight reduction in numbers. It was good to welcome new faces and hope that they will continue to attend in future years. As usual, the evening was a great success.

Following the rather disappointing 'One Year On' event in 2007, we decided to change both the name and venue for a get together of younger O.R.s at the beginning of September. For the newly titled 'Recent Leaver' event, we met at Coombe Lodge. Numbers were slow at first but

soon increased and everyone was invited to their first drink free. The Headmaster's kind gesture of putting some money behind the bar was gratefully appreciated. The later attendees unfortunately missed out on their free drink but certainly enjoyed catching up with old friends. The evening was very successful and will be repeated next year.

During the year there have been several informal gatherings of O.R.s. The biggest credit must go to Pam Turtle (nee Barrable) who hosted a summer garden party for the older generation. Pam and her husband live on a working farm in a beautiful part of Essex and had laid on a delicious tea and a comprehensive display of school history. Pam's three children, all former O.R.s and their children, together with some older O.R.s all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon.

Before the summer term finished Brian Angel came up to school to talk to Mrs Jan Bennett's Year 6 about 'What it was like to be a boarder at school during the Second World War'. Year 6 had studied many facts about the war in lesson time and Brian's reminiscences, which included passages from his diary of the time, brought to light the actual air raids, shelters, where bombs dropped, shrapnel-hunting, five-inch weekly baths of tepid water, twice-a-term oranges, and hardships and experiences encountered. It was amazing to see how well Brian and the children related to one another. This must be credited to Brian's careful planning and presentation.

The release of the 1901 census details has lead to a flood of enquires about former family members who are researching their family histories. Admission Registers and records have provided the necessary, and often extra, information for the families concerned.

Visits to the school have again been popular and those coming back to their old school have enjoyed a superior lunch (from those they remembered) and seeing their names on the Honours Boards along top corridor. Norman Morrison, who was at school in the 60's paid particular interest to the sculpture of Roger Bannister, as he is still the school record holder for the 1500m.

We still try to make more and more people aware of the Society. The web site, thanks to Sue's hard work continues to be a valuable source of information to both former pupils, family members of former pupils and the general public. It is in our best interest to ensure that news is continuously sent into school so that we can record and publicise that the Society is alive and active.

7. Treasurer's Report by Jon Davis (attached to file)

The Statement of Accounts for the previous year was available to look at, and Jon Davis reported that they had now been fully audited. Pleased to see £1,276+ surplus, the subscriptions are up over last year, but DVD sales lower. A large loss is shown for last year's Annual Dinner – this was due to trying to tie up accounts between the Old Russellians and the school. Over the last few years there have been some difficulties, but thanks to Julia everything has been tidied up. The last May Reunion 2007 cost is within the annual dinner loss, so not solely the dinner. The Society has contributed just under half the cost towards the Lord Russell bust. Will see how else we can contribute when the time arises.

Julia organises for the DVDs to be produced in batches of 10, and as yet there has been no cost of their production to the Society, so all sales make a total profit. The Headmaster pointed out the notice board in the library showing photos of the sculptor, Eino, creating the bust. Other sculptures around the school site are on loan from Eino as is the Roger Bannister sculpture and

another on the Chapel Quad. The Lord Russell bust will be cast in bronze and the school should be receiving it quite soon.

7a Subscriptions for 2009-2010

It was agreed that these would remain the same for the next year, £12 for UK members and £15 for overseas members. The Chairman is aware that many societies waive the sub, and this matters will be considered and discussed in the New Year.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report.

8. Election of Officers & Committee

No nominations have been received by the Chairman

- 8.1 Nomination for Chairman: Karl Yabsley nominated by James Lacey, seconded by Peter Taylor and unanimously carried.
- 8.2 Nomination for Treasurer: Jon Davis nominated by Brian Angel, seconded by Simon Jones and unanimously carried.
- 8.3 The following Old Russellians have agreed to remain on the O.R. Committee as general committee members: Brian Angel, Charles Froy, James Lacey, Simon Jones and Neil Anthony. New committee members include Jane Bruce and Kemal Chaudhri. These names were put nominate as a block by Karl Yabsley, seconded by Chris Gough and carried.
- 8.4 No nominations for Secretary or any other officers.

9. Election of Two Accountant Examiners

Chris Gough and Bill Cave have very kindly examined the accounts for the last 3 years and they were thanked by the Chairman for their input. Jacky Roe, a retired teacher, has examined the accounts for this year and has signed them off. Julia has made contact with the 1853 society so that we have a reciprocal agreement to audit each other's accounts, but has discovered that they have an external person who they employ for this role, and a decision will be made at committee in January with regard to our way forward on this subject.

10. Any Other Relevant Business

Julia: Quite a few people writing offering archive materials for the school.

Headmster: Thank you to everyone for their efforts, and the school will continue to offer support and help when needed.

Chris Gough: Commended the topicality of the Newsletters, citing the story about the Devonshires, currently featured in the popular film "The Duchess". This editorial successfully linked past and present. The eighth and tenth Dukes were active Presidents of the School, spanning between them nearly fifty years of service.

Date of next Committee Meeting: Saturday 24th January 2009 at 10am in the Library

Date of next Annual General Meeting: Saturday 28th November 2009 at The Chateau

Vote of thanks by Brian Angel to the Chairman

Meeting closed at 7pm

CHAIRMAN

Date