

THE OLD RUSSELLIANS  
(Founded 1890)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
6.30pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
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)**

**Neil Anthony (1973-1980), Paul Barlow (RRS Bursar), Jim Bush (Accounts Examiner), Chris Gough (1951-1955), John Jennings (RRS Headmaster), Simon Jones (1991-1998), Julia Lee (1982-1988), Julia Powell (O.R. Correspondent), Peter Smith (1945-1950), Sam Smith (1983-1987), Sue Tanner – Minutes (O.R. Membership Secretary), Derek Taylor (1944-1952), Peter Taylor (1944-1952)**

1. The meeting was opened at 6.40pm 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:**      **Jane Bruce ((1993-2000), Jonathan Davis (O.R. Treasurer) (1987-1992), Robert Fisher (1996-2002), Charles Froy (1992-1998), James Lacey (1988-1993)**
3. **Previous Minutes**  
Minutes of the previous AGM held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were emailed with relevant photos to all attendees on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2008, and appeared on the website on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Any changes were completed prior to publishing on the website. They were also posted to those attendees without email.  
The Minutes were therefore accepted as a true record, and were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising**      None
5. **Chairman's Remarks**  
Chairman reported that it had been a productive year, the O.R.s is on a steady footing, the O.R.s are fully represented on the committee, events have been successful and good turn outs, good numbers at May Reunion and cricket in memory of PWG. Sincere thanks to HM and Bursar for their support and Julia and Sue for their contribution. Sincere thanks to the committee for their commitment, time and loyalty.

## **6. Annual Report by Julia Powell**

This has been another busy year with more and more former students getting in contact with their former school.

Subscriptions for membership have now ceased as from September 2009, but we still received donations from 157 Old Russellians this year. A lot of work has been done to contact new people, and of the 5,575 records we now hold, we have names, dobs and dates in and out of school for 4,764 people (compared to 4,470 at the same time last year). We have email addresses for 980 O.Rs (compared to 825 last year). In an attempt to contact more people, we joined Facebook in September and to date we have 471 'fans' on this networking site. The newsletter is no longer sent out by mail, except to 9 Old Russellians who do not have computers. It is available on the website with links to appropriate features and events. The new website will 'go live' shortly, at which time we can update all the current material that we have on this. A new Web Manager will be in post shortly.

Requests for information regarding former students, from their relatives continue to come in and often interesting points result from this. The most interesting one was from a son who has sent in his mother's memories of school. She is now 102. Apart from looking up former entry details we are now being informed about O.R. landmark birthdays, engagements, weddings and anniversaries. Fortunately we have not heard of too many deaths. If any O.R. knows of a former colleague who has died, it is helpful if Sue can be notified to avoid any embarrassment to their families.

I have taken several O.R.s around the school. They have been most impressed with the improvements made since their school days and also to how friendly everyone is and how well motivated the current students are.

### **Events**

#### **Annual Dinner 2008**

Lack of interest in booking places for last year's Annual Dinner meant that we had to cancel the main event in the Dining Hall and accept the Headmaster's kind invitation to dinner following the AGM, at his house. About 18 of us had a splendid informal evening in very pleasant surroundings.

#### **Football Tournament and Netball Game for the girls.**

We are gradually becoming accustomed to this event being held on a cold day in the spring. This year was no exception. The dull weather did nothing to quell the enthusiasm shown by the guys and once the girls got warmed up, they thoroughly enjoyed their game of netball. Steve Greaves arranged the captains of the football teams; these captains sorted their own teams. Jane Bruce did a great job in getting enough girls to don their trainers for Netball. As usual everyone enjoyed the afternoon and most then found their way to Coombe Lodge for a well deserved drink.

#### **May Reunion and Peter Green Memorial cricket Match**

Opening this event to partners and families meant that we had about 120 visitors and enough cricketers for the match. The day started with a service in chapel where the choir excelled themselves with a rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus. The congregation also sang well! Many thanks go to both the Chaplain and Music Department for this.

Drinks followed the service in the Library where there was a display of former school photos and other archive material.

Mo Willis, our catering manager provided everyone with a delicious school lunch. It was so good that the cricketers were late for the start of their match.

During the afternoon school prefects and CCF cadets took visitors on a tour of the school whilst others watched the cricket, sat and chatted in the Library and wandered around the school on their own.

The day finished with tea in the Dining Hall.

It was especially good to welcome Jane Green and her family back for the occasion and Ron and Shirley Balaam. Ron had his book with him and did a book signing session in the Library.

Martin Tanner, always happy when armed with the camera did a splendid job snapping away.

The photos when published on the website created such interest that Sue was then burning DVD copies for several people.

Our thanks must go to the Headmaster for allowing us to host this event in school and paying for the lunch and tea, the Bursar for getting the school looking neat and tidy, the Catering manager, Chaplain, Music Department and current students for their help.

#### Drinks by the Thames

This event has been running for some years now and remains as popular as ever. A similar core of O.R.s always attends but there are always others that are new to the event. The weather, for June was good and as the evening progressed, it did not get too cold. During the evening about 60 O.R.s and staff thoroughly enjoyed catching up with news.

#### Sydney Reunion

This was not as well attended as last year, but a few different people came along this year. Next year we will give it a miss, but Julia Lee may be able to organize a reunion in NZ instead for next year, as her brother (also an O.R.) lives out there.

#### Recent Leavers Event

Held in early September, we hope to encourage those members of Year 13 who have just left to join us for a social event before they embark on their university courses. Numbers were down on former years, those who came appreciated having their first drink bought for them. As time progressed more folk arrived with some ex students from earlier years. It was a good event and certainly worth repeating. Thanks again to the Headmaster for sponsoring everyone's first drink.

A number of former O.R.s now have their children at school so join others in supporting the events occurring in school. The Remembrance Service in November is well supported by O.R.s as many of the officers are now helping to run the CCF. It was really good to welcome back Owen Larsen this year. Following his graduation from University he has completed his course at Sandhurst and is now a member of the regular army. He, with Karl, laid the O.R. wreath and Charlotte Bean came back from University to read a tribute with Nicholas Green.

Only the other week Chris Newdick came in to talk to the Sixth Form about Law at University.

Once we have the new website up and running smoothly we will be able to get information out to ORs more quickly. It is in everyone's interest to encourage former school friends to keep Sue up to date with their personal details.

**7. Treasurer's Report from Jon Davis (Spreadsheet attached to file)**

No report submitted. Treasurer, Jon Davis is standing down and has submitted the Statement of Accounts which have been checked by Jim Bush and were available to read and discuss at the AGM. He made one change, otherwise approved.

Neil said that although it does not show in the accounts, the Old Russellians would like to record their thanks to the school for its financial contribution made for Julia and Sue. All supported.

Subscriptions for 2009/2010 now abolished.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer (in his absence) for his sterling work over the past few years.

Chris Gough asked after the whereabouts of Earl Russell bust. The HM and Bursar confirmed that this is still in California. Eino (the sculptor) will come back in December to let us know when it will be delivered to RRS.

**8. Election of Officers & Committee**

**No nominations have been received by the Chairman**

8.1 Nomination for Chairman: Karl Yabsley nominated by Neil Anthony, seconded by Chris Gough and unanimously carried.

8.2 Nomination for Treasurer: Julia Lee nominated by the committee and unanimously carried.

8.3 The following Old Russellians have agreed to remain on the O.R. Committee as general committee members: Brian Angel, Jane Bruce, Kemal Chaudhri, Charles Froy, Simon Jones and Neil Anthony. New committee members include Samantha Smith and Robert Fisher. 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.

8.5 James Lacey and Jonathan Davis will stand down from the committee but have agreed to help out when required.

**9. Election of an Accountants Examiner**

Jim Bush has examined the accounts this year. Julia Powell reported that we may have another person in the pipeline. Jim has agreed to do this again if not.

**10. Any Other Relevant Business**

Julia Powell: Tie is now available and tear off slips will be available at The Chateau.

Julia Lee: Jane Bruce and Julia Lee have put the 'wheels in motion' for a possible hockey (instead of netball) tournament next March.

Chairman: Thanks to all who attended.

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

**Date of next Committee Meeting: Saturday 23rd January 2010 at 10am in the Library**

**Date of next Annual General Meeting: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010 (venue for Dinner tbc)**

**Meeting closed at 7.10pm**

**CHAIRMAN**

**Date**