

# OLD MAIDSTONIAN SOCIETY



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011

### Present:

**Paul Clifford** (President), **Graham Belson** (Hon Treasurer, Newsletter Editor), **Anthony Hayward** (Hon Secretary and President- Elect), **Richard Ratcliffe** (Committee Chairman), **Brian White**, **John Caley**, **Peter Weaver**, **Tony Webb**, **Gardner Crawley**, **Peter J E Sampson**, **Joe Cloke**, **Phil Wilkinson**, **Mick Ryan**, **Malcolm MacCallum**, **Peter Doyle**, **Phil Legg**, **Geoffrey Yeandle**, **Robert Wood**, **John Clayton**

### Apologies:

**V A (Tony) Bishop**, **Geoffrey Merchant** (Independent Examiner), **Nick Argent** (Headmaster), **David Leeke**, **James Kinsman**, **Simon Pain**

## Business

### 1. Minutes of the AGM held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010

The Minutes of the meeting held at the School on 26 March 2010 were accepted as a true record, subject to the addition of J Clayton to those elected to the Committee and the addition of Dr A W Webb and P Weaver as co-optees to the Committee

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

### 3. President's Report

The President thanked the Society for the privilege of being its President for the past year and paid tribute to the work of the Committee. He had attended all meetings of the Committee and was impressed by the hard work undertaken.

### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman of the General Committee, Richard Ratcliffe, thanked the President for his efforts on the Society's behalf and reported that a lot of work was still in progress in Committee regarding revitalisation of the Awards. He also referred to the success of the membership drive following the cessation of subscriptions and paid tribute to the hard work undertaken in this regard by the Hon Treasurer Graham Belson. He thanked John Clayton for pulling together all the arrangements for the Supper and Tony Webb for co-ordinating the Archive (ongoing). The spread of the workload around the committee was most encouraging.

### 5. Secretary's Report

There was nothing to report beyond the fact that on becoming President, Anthony flagged up the need for a new Hon Sec. The Committee would address this at its next meeting on Tuesday 29 March.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

The final accounts for the year ended Dec 2009 were tabled (these had been approved by our Independent Examiner Geoffrey Marchant) as were the draft accounts for the year ended 31 December 2010. Graham reported that at the next AGM we should have "caught up" such that the 2010 and 2011 Accounts could be approved.

The 2009 Accounts were approved by the meeting (Proposed Hon Treasurer, seconded Richard Ratcliffe none against)

## 7. OM News

The President reported that an eminent Old Boy, Tony Butler (1964) had passed away last autumn after a long battle with cancer. Tony had been due to take up the Presidency tonight: The President, Chairman and a number of other friends of Tony had attended his funeral in Oxford which was very well attended.

The Society had provided information to a TV researcher for a programme being made for BBC about Grammar Schools and the success of old boys who had passed through the system. Once a transmission date had been notified members would be kept informed.

Anthony Hayward suggested that members receiving paper copies of the Newsletter might be prepared to make a donation to the Society for this - ie if they did not take an electronic copy by E-mail.

Graham Belson reported that membership now stands at 726 with approx 5 - 8 new signings coming in each week. We had, however, lost contact with about 150 - where we have a home address but do not receive any response to letters. He would be speaking to this year's leavers at the end of the summer term to "capture" their contact details for membership.

## 8. OM Website

This had been a tremendous success and the President thanked Malcolm MacCallum and also James Kinsman and Simon Pain for their considerable efforts.

## 9. Election of New Committee

The present Committee had all agreed to continue to serve and their re-election was approved. (Proposed Brian White, Seconded Peter Weaver - none against)

**Chairman:** [To be appointed at next Committee meeting - Richard Ratcliffe had indicated willingness to stand again]

**Hon Sec:** Vacant

**Hon Treasurer:** Graham Belson

**Members:**

Malcolm MacCallum (Webmaster), John Caley, David Leeke, Brian White, Gardner Crawley, James Kinsman, Simon Pain, Tony Webb (Archivist), John Clayton, Peter Weaver (10 in total)

[It was noted by Brian White that although the present Rules specify 10 ordinary members, the drafted revisions to be finalised by the Committee in the near future had loosened this requirement to enable more volunteers to be involved - see also below]

## 10. Any Other Business

Brian White, who had put a lot of effort into revising the Rules, reported that these should be finalised at the next Committee meeting and suggested that instead of waiting until the following AGM for these to be ratified an EGM might be held sooner than that with prior consultation with the membership by E-mail. This received nodded approval from those present.

## **11. Date of Next AGM**

After brief discussion it was agreed that the model of holding the AGM on the same evening as the Annual Supper was a success and the next meeting would be held with the supper in 2012. This would probably be on the equivalent date in March subject to the Committee discussing this with the Headmaster. Members would be notified via the Website and Newsletter.

***There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 6.45 and members adjourned to the Supper.***