



CHESTER ASSOCIATION OF OLD KING'S SCHOLARS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2019, AT 6 O'CLOCK, AT THE SCHOOL

MINUTES

PRESENT: Olivia Whitlam, President, in the chair, Ravi Jayaram (Senior Vice-President), Adrian Ackroyd (Hon. Secretary), Mark Thorp (Hon. Treasurer), Anthony Russell (Editor), Paul Consterdine, David Wilkes, Martin Gruffudd-Jones, Stewart Turner, Jeff Storey, Robert Butcher, Charles Pritchard, Peter Bernie, George Hartley (Headmaster), Liz Gwyther (Head of Development).

1. **Apologies:** Robin Hardi (Dinner Secretary), Mike Hurleston, Will Lamb.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved.
3. **Matters Arising:** None.
4. **Hon. Secretary's Report:** Several meetings had taken place during the year between the Steering Group and the School in connection with the future of the Association. Several deaths of members had been noted in the Newsletter.
5. **Hon. Treasurer's Report:** The accounts were published in the Newsletter. No new members had joined in the past year. The insurance had been increased to take account of GDPR and to provide for adequate insurance of the regalia. The surplus was slightly smaller than in previous years. The surplus is put towards the CAOKS Exhibition and the Baty Travel Award.
6. **Recommendations for Closer Ties between the Association and the School:** The proposed changes had been circulated to all members in the most recent edition of the Newsletter and were summarised by the President. A copy of the proposals is attached to the book copy of these minutes. It was anticipated that those paying subscriptions would be encouraged to continue to do so, and that new members would be encouraged to pay a subscription on a voluntary basis to continue to maintain the CAOKS Exhibition Fund and the Baty Travel Award. The School would henceforth cover all the regular costs, including printing and distributing the newsletter and other material, and the only likely expense for CAOKS itself would be insurance costs for events organised by the Association separately from the School. The current events would continue and it was hoped to arrange further new events. The issue of access to data had been resolved.

Responses had been received in support of the proposals from Roger Wickson (former Headmaster), Major John Hinks and Dr. Geoffrey Bentley, which were read out by the Hon. Secretary. A former President of CAOKS, Will Lamb, had sent in a note containing some objections, particularly a perceived loss of the character of the Association and its

independence. Liz Gwyther stressed that there would be no use of CAOKS events for fundraising for the School as part of the proposal.

A discussion followed. It was explained that individual applicants applied for funding from the Baty Travel Fund whereas the CAOKS Exhibition was the School's top academic award given annually on the recommendation of the Headmaster approved by the Trustees. The Headmaster stated that it was highly valued as an honour for academic achievement. The meeting was very much in favour of maintaining these two awards as an important part of the *raison d'être* of CAOKS and discussed the possibility of increasing value of the Exhibition if the funding permitted. The question of the practicality of maintaining a voluntary subscription was discussed in detail.

The question of the costs of continuing to provide hard-copy material including the newsletter to members who desired it was discussed, and it was pointed out that already those who wish to receive a hard-copy of the Newsletter paid an additional subscription to do so. It was felt that the default position should be to receive material by email and that anyone who opted in for hard-copies should pay a small subscription to cover the extra expense. The President indicated that the new Council would consider these matters taking into account the views raised.

The proposals for change were agreed unanimously.

- 7. Dinner Secretary's Report:** In the absence of the Dinner Secretary Liz Gwyther informed the meeting of the arrangements for the dinner which is to take place on Saturday 7th September 2019 at the School. There were already a number of applications for tickets from alumni who had not attended the dinner before. The dinner would take place in the Vanbrugh Theatre, and that it was hoped that between 80 and 100 would attend, the maximum capacity being 120. All the usual traditions would continue, with the exception that there would be no separate President's Reception. Tours of the School would be available before the dinner.
- 8. Newsletter Editor's Report:** The Editor reported that he and Liz Gwyther had met before the meeting to discuss the handover of production of the newsletter to the School. There would be some changes in the format, but the content would remain very much the same as recently, with editorial control in the hands of the Editor. For the foreseeable future both paper and online versions would be available.
- 9. 2018-9 Events:** All events had been reported or will be reported in the Newsletter. The Autumn Alumni Event in London at RIBA hosted by Alan Valance had been a considerable success with over 110 in attendance.
- 10. 2019-2020 Events:** The usual events were anticipated for the forthcoming year. The Autumn 2019 London event will take place at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, hosted by Anthony Russell, on 21st November 2019.
- 11. Honoraria:** The usual honoraria (£200 each) were agreed for the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer.
- 12. Election of President:** Ravi Jayaram was unanimously elected as President for 2 years to succeed the current President.

13. Election of Officers: The following were elected for the next year: Hon. Secretary – Adrian Ackroyd; Hon. Treasurer – Mark Thorp; Dinner Secretary – Robin Hardi; Newsletter Editor – Anthony Russell.

14. Any Other Business: Adrian Ackroyd informed the meeting that the School has formed “The King’s Tudor Society” which will comprise those who have indicated that they will leave a bequest to the School in their wills. The Society will be a means of keeping its members informed of the School’s activities and enable the School to thank its benefactors. It was proposed and agreed in principle that the Association should support this proposal and provide some funding for possible use by the Society, such as ties or an honours board. This would be discussed further by the Council and the School. There was a short discussion about whether the outgoing President should stay on the Council for a year, which was left unresolved.

The meeting closed at half past seven o’clock.