



Old Ruymian Club

The Club for 6th-Formers, Former Pupils, Current and Former Staff of Chatham House, Clarendon House and Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School.

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting 2024

Commenced 3:35pm at Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School, Chatham Street, Ramsgate, followed by the Annual Reunion Dinner in the Dining Hall at 5:30pm

Present: Hon. Chairman and Acting Membership Secretary - Michael Tyrrell

Hon. Secretary – David Carr Hon. Treasurer – Janet Hughes

Committee Members: John Copeland School Liaison - Susan Hurrell

Ordinary Members attending were noted in the Club's signature book.

Agenda

- 1. Opening and Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM**
- 4. Matters Arising**
- 5. Hon. Chairman's Report**
- 6. Hon. Secretary's Report**
- 7. Hon. Treasurer's Report**
 - a) Submission of Accounts
- 8. Hon. Membership Secretary's Report**
- 9. Constitution and Rules**
 - a) To consider Amendments to the Constitution
- 10. Election of Officers and Committee Members**
 - a) Nominations received by Hon. Secretary by 31st May 2024.
- 11. Donations to the School**
- 12. Notices of Motions**
 - a) Motions received by Hon. Secretary by 31st May 2024.
- 13. Any other business**
- 14. Close**



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1. Opening and Welcome

Hon. Chairman, Mike Tyrrell, opened the Meeting by welcoming all those in attendance and apologised for the timing of this year's AGM being significantly earlier than previous years.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Anthony Jones, Peter Crisp, Martin Gilham, Terry Dennett, Geoff Ward, Robert Green, Tom Price, Steve Villette, Bob Haynes, Phil Goldsmith, Tony Debling, Philip Beastall, Jim Greaney, Tom Price, David Ingram, Mike Dixon, Tony Joyce, Nick Alder, Colin Whittaker, Tommy Thomas, Senura Ratiyala, Terry & Beryl Dennett, Dennis Hester, Steve Foster, Mark Lewis, Andy Signorell.

3. Minutes of the AGM 24th June 2023

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM on 24th June 2023, having been circulated, were accepted and agreed as a true record. **Proposed: Steve Whitaker. Seconded: Tony Carpenter.**

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the AGM of 24th June 2023.

5. Hon. Chairman's report

Welcome to the 2024 AGM at the Chatham House School site. After a misadventure, where my main PC drive crashed, I have succeeded in continuing to update the Membership Database after it had to be rebuilt from information saved on other computers. We contacted all Members, whether 'active' or 'lapsed' when notifying events such as any social events, sports activities, the AGM and the Reunion Dinner. The most convenient and least expensive way of doing this is by email or, more recently, the re-vitalised OR Facebook page, Managed by our Hon. Secretary, David Carr.

We have been able to jog the memories of numerous lapsed Members to re-join and others to update their subscriptions and contact details. During the course of this implementation, we have sadly been notified by many families of ORs who have passed away, which I will come to in the Hon. Membership Secretary's report.

You will have noticed that John Copeland has stepped back from being the Hon. Secretary and passed the baton on to David Carr. We must all thank John, and his wife Carole, for all their hard work and contributions to the Club over the last 9 years. John remains on the Committee and will be looking into organising future social events; especially those at local hostelrys.



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As mentioned in my opening remarks I must apologise for the scheduling of this AGM and of the Annual Reunion Dinner, caused by some School staff's complaints about last year's dinner; which started late and finished much later than usual! Our Hon. Secretary David Carr in organising this year's dinner had a lot of difficulty sourcing a cost-effective caterer only to be hit with these new time constraints; which proved to be very stressful!

Your committee will be deliberating on this at future Meetings, as we have lost a number of attendees this year, as they had no time to travel the long distances to get here!

The OR Newsletter No. 15, promised months ago, has just been finished with the assistance of Colin Harvey, our President. It will be sent out via email, along with the AGM Minutes from today and posted to those Members without an email address!

Tony Debling continues to organise a successful yearly Golf Day event for Members; this year at the Birchington Golf Course, held on the 26th April, for which he must be congratulated. He also organised a gathering of "Class of '74" Chatham House school friends from 50 years ago at the German Gymnasium in London.

OR Cricket Club had a successful Cricket Week this year, despite having to play off-site because of the work being carried out on the Astro Turf here at the school. They played at the Minster Cricket Club ground and at the Broadstairs Cricket Club ground which we, the OR Club, subsidised as they were left with little time to re-organise. We were formally thanked by the ORCC for the donation towards the running of the Cricket Week. The ORCC members are now joining the OR Club after my discussions with their Secretary, Senura Ratiyala; the majority of them during the August Cricket Week this year; adding hopefully some 60 or so Members to the OR Club. They would also have had a table at the Dinner today, but many were playing cricket around Kent and would not have been able to get back here in time.

The School's newsletter has stated how important the OR Club is to the School; explaining a little of what we achieve during the year and how to join the Membership. Remember that on the School's website you can find a large number of interesting events throughout the year.

Once more I ask you to ensure you update the Club through the Hon. Membership Secretary when you change your home and/or email address. Email is the fastest way we have of informing you of any events.

Lastly, I repeat, if you have any thoughts on how to reach colleagues from your schooldays to help grow the Membership, or have any suggestions for both sports and social events for all the age groups that are Members of the Club, please do not hesitate to send your ideas to the Hon. Secretary at HonSec@oldruymians.co.uk, copied to the Chairman at chairman@oldruymians.co.uk. The Committee will then discuss your suggestions and endeavour to implement them over the coming years. Just a few lines will do; it doesn't have to be a manuscript.



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Lastly, I would like to thank Janet Hughes, John Copeland, David Carr, Sue Hurrell and Geoff Ward for their help this year; including those Members organising our sports events.

6. Hon. Secretary's report

For those of you who don't know me my name is David Carr and I was at Chatham House from 1967 to 1973 in Brack's and Mann's.

Firstly, thank you, Chairman, for your Report. I would also like to thank our Chairman, and the Committee, for having the confidence in me to ask me to step-up to the position of Club Secretary in January - I will do my utmost to carry out the role to the best of my ability. Thanks too must go to John Copeland, in whose steps I follow, for all the work he has carried out for the Club as both Treasurer and as Secretary over many years. A tough act to follow!

I would also like to thank Martin Gilham, a name most of you will know and my friend since days in 1 Brack's and who has now returned to Australia, for asking me, a few years ago now, if I would like to come to an Old Ruymian Club Annual Reunion Dinner. Perhaps somewhat foolishly I did; hence the reason I am here today as a Member of this Committee.

In remembering others in this Club, both on and off the Committee, it leads me to think about the many who have served and been Members of the Club over the years, and the weight that such august Members, combined with the history of the Club and School, place upon my own and the Committee's shoulders.

By December 1911 Hulbert Norman, the Headmaster of what was then The County Secondary School in Clarendon Gardens, promoted the idea of the "Old County Club" to foster ongoing relationships between Old Boys of the School and the School itself. On 27th December 1911, at the very first AGM and Dinner, the "Old Ruymian Club" was born with an annual Membership fee of 2/6d; the equivalent of £18.45 today!

Despite two world wars, COVID and two school mergers, one in 1922 and one in 2013, the Club is still here in its 113th year, 227 years after the School's inception, supporting the School wherever it can and maintaining relationships between Old Boys and Girls. It is for these reasons that, as I started my tenure as Secretary, I began a campaign in social media, to supply all Club Members with free lapel pin badges. This resulted in a number of Members requesting a badge. For those who may not necessarily see the purpose of a pin badge I can recount a recent garden party I attended and was asked, by a lady at the event, "What's that badge for?" Unfortunately for her this resulted in my talking about the Club, the School, its famous alumni and even worse for her, about my writing a book about the history of the School, for the next half-hour or so! That, in turn, led to the discovery that her nephew attended Chatham House and, of course, I had to provide her with Membership Forms to pass on!



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I have also spent some time in connecting with people via Facebook; adding quite a few photos and general memorabilia to our page. That, in turn, resulted in lowering the age of those viewing our page - for example the largest age-group now engaging with our page, liking posts and replying to posts, is 25 to 35 years of age - the very age group we need to target for the sake of the Club's future. We now have 741 people following our Facebook page with, at the last count, over 1228 "engagements" with the page in the last 28 days.

A few years ago, I was a Councillor for a Ramsgate Ward and, using a little influence, I had a word with an old colleague and managed to get a full page spread about our Club in "Ramsgate" Magazine in May this year, which I hope you managed to see? If not then take a look at the Club's Facebook page and look at our photos from around that time. Not a bad piece of work, if I say so myself!

The remainder of my spare time, since January, has been engaged with the preparation for today's AGM and Dinner; finding a suitable caterer and ensuring we enjoy (I hope!) the meal; preparing and printing the Dinner Programme, the place cards, arranging the Menu selections and, perhaps the greatest task of all, persuading, cajoling and pestering people to join us today!

Regarding the year ahead, and apart from preparing for next year's AGM and Dinner on 28th June 2025, it will be my task to move our existing website, currently with "Go-Daddy", to a cheaper alternative provider and in doing so make it easier for other Members of the Committee to Manage it on a long-term, ongoing basis. The current website is somewhat in need of updating and improving if it is to retain the interest of both existing Members and grab the attention of potential new Members; particularly those of School leaving age and the younger alumni. This will unfortunately mean some disruption to the website service for a short period during the coming year, but hopefully result in an overall improvement.

Additionally, I have put a tentative 'toe in the water' regarding "Merch", or Club Merchandise. In particular sweatshirts; which have already garnered attention from the membership with, so far, around 6 in the process of being prepared for us. The small profits from the sale of which will allow us to give even more to School projects. I have also been asked by members to investigate Rugby shirts, so watch out for news about those too.

It is also the intention of the Committee to re-adopt local social events, many of which were put aside during the COVID pandemic, and have regular meetings in sociable surroundings. Not all of our Members are physically able to engage with Cricket or Golf and so small social gatherings would be an ideal way of connecting with our old school friends.

All Clubs and Societies go through periods of change and swings in Membership numbers and we are no exception to this rule; but I would like to share with you some interesting facts in the Club's history, as related in Ruym Magazine, before I close:

7. In January of 1920 the Dinner and AGM attracted 40 Members.
8. By September of 1920 no Committee Meetings had been held since the Dinner.



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9. Between September 1920 and January 1921, things were described as 'uneventful', owing the continuance of the Club to "a few loyal and enthusiastic supporters".
10. By May 1921 "Nothing happened", but a few Old Boys had visited the School.
11. Two years later, in May 1923, the ORs had played 20 football matches, winning 13.
12. By the 1930 anniversary of the School there were 179 Old Boys and Masters present at the Dinner.
13. By January 1931 the OR Club was showing a financial loss and was in jeopardy of disbanding.

With all this in mind I would like to draw to a close by thanking the Members here today for **their** ongoing commitment to the Club, and I look forward to a long, fruitful relationship with you all.

I would also like to offer a Report from Senura Ratiyala, the ORCC Secretary as follows:

"Dear Old Ruymian Club Committee and Members,

Firstly, apologies on behalf of the Old Ruymian Cricket Committee, unfortunately over the summer many of us are away, playing cricket or otherwise indisposed at work. As a result, we have not been able to make the 2024 OR Club AGM and Dinner. We all send our sincerest apologies for our absence. I would like to thank the Old Ruymian Club, in particular Mike Tyrell, John Copeland and David Carr for all their help over the last few years. Without the valuable involvement and help of the Club, we would not have been able to address a lot of the issues and challenges that arose throughout the last few years.

Thanks to the School also for allowing us the use of the fields and facilities to keep this week of fixtures going.

The committee initially began following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021. We decided to do something to celebrate the centenary of Chatham House Grammar School for boys. Having only completed one fixture in 2021 was the shock we needed to reorganise and seek support from members old and new. We started with 4 fixtures against a variety of local and visiting teams. We have subsequently built this up each year and despite difficulties with pitches last year and several other factors, we have managed to fulfil all fixtures that we could. Last year we returned to the fixture against the School in a Spring T20 game which we have managed to continue. This year we have improved further and for the first time in 11 years, we have a week of fixtures set up against local sports teams affiliated with the school (such as Nelson CC and Thanet Wanderers) and a variety of visiting teams (London Strollers and XL Club) and a historic fixture against Alexandra Park CC.

We reach out to around 65-70 players each year and while not all play, we welcome all who would like to be involved. This year we have also sought to benefit the school by directly linking the match fees to the membership so that each player's first game contributes to their Membership with the OR Club. While we have only played 1 match so far there were several new members as a result, and we hope this endeavour allows more players to join.

We hope and welcome any members to come watch during the 12th - 16th of August and/or be involved. If you would like to be involved, please contact me (senura.ratiyala@gmail.com) - Senura Ratiyala. Thanks again for all your help Old Ruymian Club and we hope you enjoy the AGM and the Dinner.

Warmest regards, Senura Ratiyala"



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7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

a) The Hon. Treasurer submitted the audited accounts for the year to 31st May 2024 as below:

Receipts and Payments Year Ending 31st May 2024

Receipts In:

31 May 2023		31 May 2024
£		£
2639:00	Subscriptions and Donations	2654:00
550:00	AGM Dinner 2023	1149:00
297:00	AGM Dinner 2024	980:10
<hr/>		
3486:00		4783.10

Payments Out:

670:21	AGM Dinner	1637:93
1920:00	Donation to CCGS	1000:00
400:00	Donation to Cricket	310:00
240:00	Donation to Golf	0:00
594:65	Documents & Postage	44:78
0:00	Misc Items	0:00
360:00	ED Analytics	455:98
<hr/>		
4184:00		3448:69

Balance brought forward from 31 st May 2023	£ 437:96
Balance at 31 st May 2024	£1772:37

Compiled by: Janet Hughes Hon. Treasurer:
2024

Date: 27 June

Examined and found to be correct by John Larkins ATT:
2024

Date: 27 June

Received and accepted by the Membership. **Proposed: Brian Hasler. Seconded: Steve Whitaker**



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8. Hon. (Acting) Membership Secretary's Report

We have updated the deaths of old Club Members on the Club Database. Sadly, this is a trend; producing a decline in Membership unless we can attract newcomers.

Those who have passed away during the last year:

Laurie Bulmer

Dr Colin Whitaker's wife (27th November 2023)

Peter J Wilson - renowned hockey player

Dave Cookson - Teacher at CHGS and exceptional sportsman

Ron Hockey (29th March 2024)

The late Norman Poole's wife, Juliet Poole, died at the end of 2023

Previously the Committee had considered ways to attract a younger generation of ex-students. The conclusion was that we should be promoting through modern communications and social media such as Facebook, Twitter (X), etc., which we are actioning.

Currently we have contact details of some 431 Old Boys and Girls as of 30th May 2024. We have email addresses for 310 of those contacts and home addresses for 127 contacts.

Paid Membership now stands at approximately 176 as of 30th May 2024.

Note that the contact details of lapsed/non-Members are now used as a pool of potential new Members, approximately 210 in total, and has resulted in a number of Members recently joining.

As a number of old students have joined/re-joined recently, and we have acquired a number of new contacts through Facebook and the OR Cricket Club, I will be updating our figures in early July once the subscription mandates have been paid.

9. Constitution and Rules

a) To consider Amendments to the Constitution

It was highlighted to the Members present that since the last issue of the Club's Constitution there had been several changes to the Laws of England as well as attitudes towards gender which meant that our Constitution was both out of date and out of touch with current attitudes. It was proposed that a Mandate be given to the Committee to make the necessary amendments to the Club's Constitution to bring it in line with current requirements and bring it back to the Membership as a completed work by next year's AGM. **Proposed: Brian Hasler. Seconded: Bob Hinge.**



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10. Election of Officers & Committee Members

a) Nominations received by the Hon. Secretary before 31st May 2024

The Hon. Secretary reported that no nominations had been received by him as at 31st May 2024 and that the existing Officers and Committee Members could be re-elected if the Membership so wished. The Committee all indicated that they would be pleased to continue in office. **Proposed: Steve Whitaker. Seconded: Brian Hasler.**

11. Donations to the School

Three bids had been submitted to the OR Club, via the Committee, for the funding of various items for the School. In brief, these were for: 1) a portable generator @ £391.66, 2) 2 x 15 litre water containers with taps and retaining bungee cords @ £29.16, and 3) a magazine rack @£75.90. Total cost: £496.72 without VAT. The request for a second generator was withheld until the Club's financial position was confirmed. The Membership agreed to fund £500 toward these bids. See Appendix A attached. **Proposed: Colin Bagge. Seconded: Brian Hasler.**

12. Notices of Motions

a) Motions received by the Hon. Secretary before 31st May 2024

No Motions had been received by the Hon. Secretary before 31st May 2024.

13. Any Other Business

A short discussion took place regarding the timing of this year's AGM and Annual Reunion Dinner, including whether the Dinner should be replaced by a Lunch and whether this could be incorporated with a tour of the School. It was considered that polling the Membership via Facebook may be useful as a gauge of opinion. However, it was generally agreed by those Members present that a Dinner was preferable and that the AGM and meal should remain held at the School. The Committee were asked to investigate options for the coming years. **Proposed: Brian Hasler. Seconded: Steve Whitaker.**

A further discussion ensued, prompted by the Hon. Chairman, regarding the moving of the Club's Financial Year End from 31st May to 5th April. It was confirmed by Brian Hasler that legislation will be introduced to bring most organisations into line with 5th April and the Club would be wise to consider this. The Hon. Chairman confirmed that the Committee would discuss this at their next Meeting and examine options to implement this.

14. Close

The Hon. Chairman thanked all those present for coming and closed the Meeting at 5:05pm.



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Appendix A. School bids for funding for School projects.

CCGS Bids for Resource Funding from ORs – AGM 29th June 2024

Please find below details of the bid's put forward for your consideration this year.

Bid 1 £400 each £800 for two.

Bid 2 £40

Bid 3 £80

Total £920

Thank you

Sue Hurrell

CCGS OR Liaison

Bid 1

Dear ORs

I think the school would greatly benefit if one or two portable, leisure generator could be bought, please see below just a few reasons and uses:

- I was out on a DofE trip a couple of weeks ago and was chatting to Adam Topping about the setup and how impressed I was with it all. One of the things he mentioned was that on that particular trip he had paid an extra £50 per day to have use of a hut on the campsite which had mains power in it. This meant that the emergency phones that each student group are given could be kept charged and that staff laptops could be kept charged (even more important since a recent staff meeting where we were told that paper copies of consent forms etc were no longer to be used on trips).
- I've spoken to a couple of the site team and they said that a small gennie could be useful for when they need to operate away from an accessible power source.
- I could use one for sports day so I don't have to run 100+ meters of extension lead plugged into extension lead plugged into extension lead across the ground



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- to get to the middle of the field (this always makes everyone very uneasy – with adults and students continuously walking around the area).
- Music have been asked to perform at a range of events (village fetes, markets etc) where there is no available power, so we have had to either decline or completely rework our bands to go fully acoustic. There have been several performance opportunities on our European tours which we haven't been able to access as no site power was available.

I'm sure we could always find other uses for one across the school which would make this a great school-wide resource. Two one for Chatham Site and one for Clarendon would be fantastic. As an example, the one shown below provides 2200w of power, which is more than enough for the kind of use it will get, fed to 2 output sockets, and runs fairly quietly as it's designed for camping as well as being small and lightweight.

Hyundai 2200W / 2.2kW Petrol Inverter Generator, Pure Sine Wave Output, Lightweight, Quiet Running | HY2250Si £469.99 inc. VAT £391.66 ex. VAT



Thank you for your consideration
Oskar Gibbons
Music/Music Technology Teacher



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Bid 2

Dear ORS

We at Team DofE would love to take advantage of your generosity again by bidding please for the funding of 2 water carriers with taps? We have two very old and leaky ones which we carry around in the minibus and top up the students' water bottles when we meet them out and about on their routes. Two new and robust ones (example below) would be very beneficial. I have shopped around and read reviews and think these two suit our needs (and the minibuses needs) the best.

Jerry Can Water Container Food Grade Plastic, with Tap 15L £12.99 Inc VAT (20%)



Along with bungee cords with hooks to secure them in the bus. Double seat belting them is frustrating and time consuming....!! £9 for set of 12.



Thank you for your continued support for our DofE scheme.

Mr. Adam Topping

Teacher of Geography (*KS5 Lead*)

7MSb Form Tutor

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager



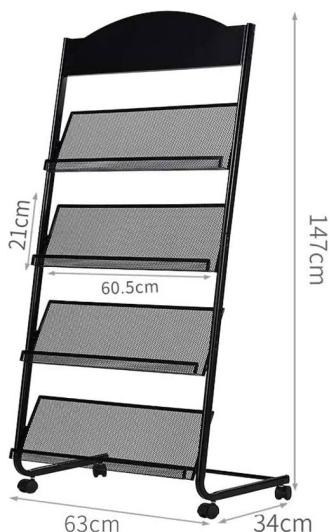
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Bid 3

Dear ORs

Thank you for your generous support over the years to the Geography Department. All the additional resources you have so kindly given are put to good use and enjoyed by the students and staff alike. This year I would like to request funding for a magazine display rack to show the journals and up to date papers/magazines that come in. Students can then see what is available and borrow them. We are supporting the whole school's focus to encourage wider reading and we feel this would assist us in promoting the reference library created in geography already. It is £75.90



Thank you again.

Mrs A March B.Ed (Hons)
Head of Geography CCGS

