



Old Ruymians' 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 2025

Commenced 4:30pm at Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School, Chatham Street, Ramsgate, followed by the Annual Reunion Dinner in the Dining Hall at 6:30pm

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 (8) attending were noted in the Club's signature book.

Agenda

- 1. Opening and Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the 2024 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 any proposed Amendments to the Constitution received by Hon. Secretary by 31st May 2025.
 - b) To receive the amended Constitution, dated 3 December 2024.
- 10. Election of Officers and Committee Members***
 - a) Nominations received by Hon. Secretary by 31st May 2025.
- 11. Donations to the School**
- 12. Notices of Motions***
 - a) Motions received by Hon. Secretary by 31st May 2025.
- 13. Any other business**
- 14. Date of next AGM – Saturday 27th June 2026.**
- 15. Close**



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***Nominations for Officers, Notice of Election of Officers, Notices of Motion and Amendments to the Constitution**

- 1) The Constitution requires that Officers of the Committee, having served for a period of 3 years of a 3-year term should stand down, but can be re-elected if so wished; providing there are no other nominations.
- 2) Notices of Motion, proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Nominations for Officers should all be sent to Mr David Carr - Hon. Secretary, Old Ruymians' Club, 14 Derwent Avenue, Ramsgate, CT11 0QA, UK **to arrive no later than 9:00am 31st May 2025** to allow for distribution and due notice to be given to Members attending the AGM.

1. Opening and Welcome

Hon. Chairman, Mike Tyrrell, opened the Meeting by welcoming all those in attendance and hoped everyone would enjoy the Dinner which follows the AGM.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from: Terry Dennett, Tony Tucker, Robin Colyer, Bill Askew, Nick Alder, Brian Hasler, Peter Crisp, Graham Channon, Michael Jones, Martin Gilham, Gary Quartley and Alistair Walton.

3. Minutes of the AGM 29th June 2024

Copies of the Minutes of the AGM on 29th June 2024, having been circulated and which are available on the website, 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 29th June 2024.

5. Hon. Chairman's report

Welcome to the 2025 OR AGM at the Chatham House site of the Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School.

We continue to update our Membership database, contacting all those Members whether active or lapsed when notifying events such as any social events, sports activities, the AGM and the Annual Reunion Dinner. We have been able to jog the memories of many lapsed members to re-join and others to update their subscriptions. Sadly, during the course of this exercise, we have been notified by many families of ORs who have passed away, which have been notified on the Club's Facebook page, website and by emails.

Of those who passed away last year was a committee member, Anthony (Tony) Jones. Tony was not a well person but, notwithstanding, he joined the committee to help us keep the Club running for



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the Membership! Many of the committee have been members for more than the normally allotted time of three years but have continued to serve the Club. However, we need younger, vigorous members to join and assist in the continuance of the Club.

We have continued to attract a number of new Members to join after a concerted effort by our Hon Secretary, David Carr, via Facebook and the ORC website; and the OR Cricket Club continues to promote Membership of the ORs.

After updating our Facebook page and website, David is continually adding articles concerning the School and OR activities as well as activities and information sent in to us by old members of the Schools. We hope to encourage and provide opportunities for sporting events and social occasions which enable all ORs to keep in touch with one another. How David finds time to write books on the history of Chatham House, now in its third edition with newly received photos and articles, goodness only knows!

Also, our Hon Secretary David Carr, with a little assistance from his wife Elizabeth, has organised this year's Dinner here at the School and made a successful job of attracting more attendees than last year. It is a huge amount of work and he must be congratulated for his efforts.

We must also thank John Copeland and his wife Carole for their hard work and contributions over the years and for this year's OR Lunches at Miles at the Ramsgate Harbour and Taddy's Barn in Kingsgate which were enjoyed by all that attended.

Tony Debling continues to organise a successful annual Golf Day event for Members; this year at the North Foreland Golf Course, held on 11th April, for which he must be congratulated. The weather was splendid, what a scorcher! The day was enjoyed by all, which included those like me who attended just for the Lunch!

Next year the Golf Day will be held once again at the north Foreland Golf Club – let's hope the same fine weather has been booked as well – with a date of Friday 10th April 2026. We hope to see you all there, whether playing the long course, the short course, or just joining us for the superb Lunch.

The OR Cricket Club had a very successful Cricket Week last year, with all matches being played on the Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School grounds. Based on that success this year's Cricket Week is also being played on the School grounds from 11th to 15th August 2025. The Old Ruymians' Cricket Club non-OR Members are now joining the OR Club after my discussions with their Secretary, Senura Ratiyala – the majority of them during the August Cricket Week – adding, hopefully, some 60 or so Members to the OR Club.

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.



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Lastly, I would like to reiterate that 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 can 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.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the whole committee: 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

Good afternoon, everyone.

Firstly thank you, Chairman, for your Report.

My Secretarial Year, so to speak, got off to a flying start with the action taken from last year's AGM to update the Constitution such as to take account of recent changes to Equalities law in England and Wales. The revised Constitution is re-written and a copy can be found on the Old Ruymians' Club website.

The next task on my programme of work was to move the old website from "Go-Daddy", which had seen a huge rise in costs, to a new provider in Heart Internet. I have received great support from them in hosting my own website and they were no less supportive in our move of the OR website to them. We had an initial "hiccup" or two with a WordPress database that didn't seem to work; but, true to their word, they helped to reconstruct the database which is now the mainstay of the relocated website. Following that I have tried, to the best of my endeavours, to update and maintain the website with the latest News and general information, and improve it where possible. I concluded that I must have been doing something right as the number of those signed-up to the website increased over the last year by 62 to 454 (15.8% increase). Whilst I'm sure that trend will not continue, it's good to see so many interested in the ORs – particularly as one of those who signed-up was a current sixth-former and several were from Clarendon House.

I continue to try to gain interest in the ORs with regular updates to Facebook which now has 803 "followers"; 14% are women and 86% men. On average we receive 14,100 views per month and 200 "interactions". I also started a new "Chat" group as a branch of the OR main Facebook page. I am attempting to keep posts on the Website and Facebook mirrored across both to ensure that those without a Facebook account can still access the same information on the website – in fact there is usually more that can be posted to the website than to Facebook, such as documents like the Constitution for example. Facebook posts do, however in general, generate more interaction than the website. Some individual Facebook posts have generated 2,373 views whilst others only 118.



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Some of you may also have noticed that a proportion of my time over the last year was spent writing my book "The Chatham House Story". Whilst the Publisher, and especially Amazon, take the lion's share of the cost of the book, I have been able to make 10% donations on sales throughout the year, to the Club. Unfortunately I'm not a J K Rowling! The book is now in its third edition, with additional Chapters dedicated to "Tommy" Thomas and Colin Whitaker, amongst others, and additional information regarding John Matthews and David Smart.

Preparations for this year's Annual Reunion Dinner began during last year's Dinner! I managed to secure the services of Mr Blake Dark as Guest after-dinner speaker before he left the grounds! Following the excellent comments made regarding the caterer, Bay Tree Caterers, I secured their services for this year too; albeit that they reduced the menu options from 3 or 4 to 2 or 3 per course. In view of the quality they provided in both food quality and waiting tables I felt the sacrifice worth it. I sincerely hope you agree this year!

Report from Senura Ratiyala, Secretary of the OR Cricket Club:

"I hope you are all keeping well. The sun is shining, and we're looking forward to welcoming you to another season of OR Cricket Week this August.

Firstly, I would like to thank the OR Committee for their continued support and invaluable knowledge. Their guidance over the past few years has been deeply appreciated. Likewise, we extend our gratitude to Chris Freeman, Andrew Smith, and Sue Fenton at CCGS for their generous support and assistance.

*We're pleased to share that all participating teams have now confirmed, and we are just awaiting final confirmation regarding grounds and facilities. We are delighted to be returning to CCGS for a second consecutive season after a short hiatus at Broadstairs CC a few years ago. Even more excitingly, we'll be running another **full week of fixtures** for only the second time in nearly 12 years. We have the traditional fixture vs. Alexandra Park CC that we have retained for several decades as well as some more recent opponents such as the XL Club that we have begun hosting in recent history.*

To make this week a real success, we would very much welcome your involvement—whether as a player, umpire, spectator, or by assisting with the day-to-day running of the event. All ages and experience welcome so please let us know if you're interested in helping. Please get in touch with our Secretary, Senura Ratiyala, at senura.ratiyala@gmail.com.

Fixtures will take place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th August [12:30 for 13:00 start] and include the following match-ups:

- **11th August:** Old Ruymians CC vs Nelson CC
- **12th August:** Old Ruymians CC vs Thanet Wanderers RUFC
- **13th August:** Old Ruymians CC vs London Strollers



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- **14th August:** Old Ruymians CC vs XL Club
- **15th August:** Old Ruymians CC vs Alexandra Park CC

We look forward to another fantastic week of cricket, reminiscing and camaraderie.

Warm regards, Senura."

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

a) The Hon. Treasurer submitted the audited accounts for the year to 31st May 2025 as below:

Receipts and Payments Year Ending 31st May 2025

Receipts In:

31 May 2024

£

2654.00

1149.00

980.10

Subscriptions and Donations

AGM Dinner 2024

AGM Dinner 2025

D. Carr Book Profits

Club ties and badges

31 May 2025

£

2697.00

434.10

1813.17

40.73

414.79

4783.10

5389.79

Payments Out:

1637.93

1000.00

310.00

0.00

44.78

455.98

AGM Dinner '24

AGM Dinner '25

Donation to CCGS (D of E)

Cricket Painting & framing

Donation to Cricket

Donation to Golf

Maintenance of website

Card reader

Purchase of OR Club ties

Documents & Postage

ED Analytics

1669.12

536.50

500.00

233.00

0.00

300.00

100.73

49.00

864.00

30.13

0.00

3448.69

4282.48

Balance brought forward from 31st May 2024

Balance at 31st May 2025

£1772.37

£2876.70

Compiled by: Janet Hughes Hon. Treasurer:

Examined and found to be correct by John Larkins ATT:

Date: 27 June 2025

Date: 27 June 2025

Received and accepted by the Membership. **Proposed: Colin Bagge. Seconded: Steve Whitaker**



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

I have updated the database with the deaths of old Members and posted these to Facebook and the website. However this is, sadly, a trend producing a decline in Membership which, if it goes unchecked, will result in fewer and fewer Members. We need to attract newcomers to the Club!

Previously the committee had considered ways to attract a younger generation of ex-students. The conclusion that this should be through modern forms of Social Media such as Facebook, the website, Instagram, etc; in this way we are able to update more quickly.

Currently we have contact details for 285 ex-students of CCGS and 208 OR paid Members; a total of 493 as of 28th June, 2025. We have email addresses for 332 of those contacts and home addresses for 370 contacts. Paid Membership now stands at approximately 185.

Note that the contact details of lapsed/non-Members are now used as a pool of potential new Members (approximately 308 in total) and has resulted in a number of Members recently joining.

As a number of old students have joined/re-joined recently 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

No proposed amendments to the Constitution have been received by the Hon. Secretary by 31st May 2025.

b) To receive the amended Constitution

Members were asked to receive the Constitution as amended on 3 December 2024. **Proposed: Steve Whitaker. Seconded: Tony Debling.**

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: Tony Debling. Seconded: Tony Carpenter.**



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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) Pack of 10 x Digital thermometers and lux meters @ £167.16, 2) 45 x ski-helmet covers @ £675, and 3) a set of BBC Micro:bit kits @£174. Total cost: £1016.16. The request for a second generator was withheld until the Club's financial position was confirmed. The Membership agreed to fund all these bids. See Appendix A attached. **Proposed: Steve Villette. Seconded: Colin Bagge.**

12. Notices of Motions

a) Motions received by the Hon. Secretary before 31st May 2025

No Motions had been received by the Hon. Secretary before 31st May 2025.

13. Any Other Business

A short discussion took place regarding whether there could be an additional OR Dinner held in the London area for those Members who found it difficult, for whatever reason (distance, health, etc.) to come to the Dinner in Ramsgate. In general this was felt to be a good idea and could indeed be of benefit to the Club by attracting more Members. However, the existing committee felt that this was outside the reach of the members of the committee to carry out, and welcomed any volunteers to explore this particular idea. **Proposed: Michael E Jones. Seconded: Steve Whitaker.**

14. Date of the next AGM

The date of the next AGM: Saturday 27th June 2026. Time TBC.

15. Close

The Hon. Chairman thanked all those present for coming and closed the Meeting at 5:20pm.



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Appendix A.

Requests for Donation – AGM 28 June 2025

1.

Science would like to be able to purchase some more digital thermometers and Lux meters for use with our biological sampling modules. The apparatus will be used for both KS4 and KS5 field work. This is an essential part of GCSE and A level biology course with classes currently having to share just one Lux meter for accurate light readings and just a few working digital thermometers for testing soil temperature.

Academy Digital Thermometer Pack of 10 [80471] x 1 pack of 10 £67.50



Light Meter x2 = £99.66

Total request = £167.16

Christine Bell
Science Manager



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2.

School Ski Trip Pila

We had a fantastic school Ski Trip to Pila this year and we are hoping for this to be an annual event.

However, on the slopes it was really difficult to distinguish our students from other schools' students. We are looking into investing in ski helmet covers that would be labelled with CCGS and our logo and the school colours so we can spot our students when they are skiing.



We are looking at purchasing 45 of these covers and they are £15 each with the printing (**£675**). We are also fundraising in the summer, with a school quiz night, but any contribution to this total would be amazing.

Thanks

Kind Regards,

Mr Hasler

HOD Health and Social Care

Chatham & Clarendon Grammar School



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3. Funding Request – KS3 Electronics Club resources

Dear Old Ruymians',

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to request funding support from the alumni association for a set of BBC Micro:bit kits to support a new lunchtime Electronics Club for KS3 students.

Purpose of the resource:

The aim is to introduce students to coding and electronics in a fun and accessible way, supporting STEM learning beyond the classroom.

Benefits to students:

The club will be open to students in Years 7–9 and aims to engage 10–20 students per week. It encourages creative problem-solving, teamwork, and foundational skills in digital technology.



10 x Micro:bit V2 student classroom

£174

[BBC micro:bit V2 - 10 Student Classroom Pack – Kitronik Ltd](#)

Thank you for considering this request. I'd be happy to provide further details if needed.

Warm regards,

Stuart Male
DT Technician

Total of requests for 2025: £1016.16