

MINUTES OF THE OP SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING AT THE NAVAL CLUB
Tuesday 17th May 2016

Present: Richard Shuttleworth (President), Merrick Rayner (Chairman), Mark Dumas (Vice President), Ian Williams (Vice President), Thomas Garnier (Headmaster), Will Donaldson, Mike Nicholson, David Metcalfe, Anna Sterling, Lawrence Howard, Oliver Stephens-Ofner, Karen Hartshorn (Director of Development)

1. Apologies for absence: Rupert Meacher (Secretary), Lionel Stephens (Hon. Vice President), Pip Smitham (Treasurer), Robin Knight (Hon. Vice President), James Greaves, Paul Lawrence, Fergus van Niekerk, Andy Wells, John Fisher, Charlie Parry.

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting: Tuesday 23rd February 2016 – correction: in section 12 it should read that Wendy Saddington has been the *Matron* of Harbinger for 20 years. The minutes were approved.

3. Chairman's Report

- The Mansion House drinks party was a great success, attracting over 200 OPs who between them drank 318 bottles of wine and champagne. Despite this, a small profit was made. The committee gave a vote of thanks to Merrick Rayner for the excellent planning and organisation of the event.
- The OP Weekend on 8-9 October is the next major OP event in the calendar and the first of the Centenary Year celebrations. The wider OP community must be marketed to, and OP Sport on Sunday afternoon is yet to be confirmed. David Metcalfe and the Development Office are working to contact young OP rugby players.
- Mock Interviews for current L6 pupils are happening on 21st June at College; these are aimed at giving pupils multiple interview practice in one day with a range of different interviewers. OPs with half or a full day to spare would be welcome as practice interviewers. Mike Nicholson and Merrick Rayner are able to help.
- Founder's Day is on Saturday 9th July. OPs of the 1970s and 2000s are being specifically invited, but all OPs are welcome. Will Donaldson reported he is trying to get many of his 1996 cohort to attend as well.
- It was felt appropriate that the OP Society support the Lord Mayor's Appeal, this year supporting Junior Diabetes and the Sea Cadets. The Lady Mayoress will be abseiling down the clock tower of St Lawrence Jewry Church in aid of the appeal in October 2016. **It was unanimously agreed that the OP Society donate a sum of £500 to the Lord Mayor's Appeal.**

4. Hon Secretary's Report.

- There was nothing to report.

5. Headmaster's Report

- The Devitt renovations are proceeding: Development and Marketing moved in over the Easter Holidays, and the Headmaster is scheduled to move at May halfterm. Floodlights are currently being installed on the astro, and governors have approved a facelift to the front of mess hall which will increase the number of visitor loos. The swimming pool project has gone to planners, permission is expected mid-July.
- Centenary book sales are steady: 735 were pre-sold and many more have been sold since then. Exact sales figures can be brought to the October AGM.
- The College is in good shape in terms of pupil numbers. This year has seen 419 pupils at Pangbourne, our largest total, and similar numbers are projected for September 2016. More pupils means more fee income that can be set aside for capital projects, which combined with anticipated increased

income from fundraising will hopefully mean progress in other capital areas which require attention, including the science facilities.

- Mark Dumas questioned when a legacy campaign would be starting; this is planned and should be in the near future now there is a full-time Development Office to support such an initiative.
- The Headmaster, Director of Development and Chair of Governors are all going to the New Zealand and Hong Kong Centenary celebrations in February 2017. **It was proposed (Mark Dumas), seconded (Mike Nicholson) and unanimously agreed that the OP Society should contribute up to £7,000 in total towards the President and Chairman of the OP Society going to the New Zealand Centenary celebrations.**

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

- The OP Society holds approximately £48,000. In addition to this, the operation and activities of the OP Society are funded by the College at up to £25,000 per annum to replace 'subscription fees' to the OP Society.
- There was discussion about formalizing the Terms of Reference between College and the OP Society with regard to financial situation for the longterm. This is relevant given that College and OP Society personnel will change over time, and with plans to resurrect the Pangbourne Association. **Merrick Rayner / Karen Hartshorn to work on drafting a Terms of Reference in the first instance, to take to the October meeting.**

7. Matters arising from the previous minutes

- Karen Hartshorn / Lawrence Howard to work on a Young OP event at the Sydney Arms, Chelsea. Richard Shuttleworth will forward contact details for the owner (an OP) to Karen.
- A BBQ is happening at College this Friday (20th May) to welcome current U6 pupils to the OP Society. Lawrence Howard, Andy Wells and Anna Sterling will all be in attendance, along with Karen Hartshorn, David Metcalfe and up to a dozen other young OPs. U6th pupils will receive a 'Welcome to the OP Society' pack. *Update: this was a success, with 55 U6 (out of 69) in attendance and a very positive atmosphere. Thanks to Lawrence Howard for speaking eloquently!*
- It was noted that a Database Officer is now in place, and an events / alumni relations person will be starting mid-June. Already there has been a lot of progress on the OP Database and events, but the overall programme will take time to develop (particularly with the Centenary Year in 2016-17 taking precedence in terms of events).

8. Social Committee Report.

- Mark Dumas reported that 28 have signed up for the Turf Club lunch. It will be £38 per head.

9. Sport Committee Report

- Yacht Club: The OP Yacht Club rally takes place this coming weekend at Yarmouth with 24 OPs expected. The club will also enter the Arrow Trophy later this year.
- Rugby: The Cronk-Cunis Rugby Festival for U21 players is later this summer. David Metcalfe and Will Hardcastle are working to put a team together. There was an offer from the committee to help with some funding; David Metcalfe will liaise with Will / OP Society.
- Golf: A team of 6 OPs competed in the Grafton Morrish Southwest qualifiers, finishing 9th out of 16 teams and narrowly missing out on qualification for the next round. The next OPGS date is the Summer Meeting on 10th June at the NZ Golf Club.
- Cricket: Phil Walden has organised a team of OPs to play the College in a T20 match on Founders Day, 9th July.

10. Centenary Update

- 100 Years exhibition: many OPs have responded to the invitation to send in photos and artefacts for this exhibition. Planning is currently underway. Alex

Garnier is the point of contact for any OPs wishing to send in photographs.

11. OP Obituary Book

- It was noted that Robin Knight had been unwell in the past few weeks; the entire Committee passed on its best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.
- It was also noted the extraordinary amount of work that Robin Knight has done for the OP Society and College in putting together not one but two books at the same time. The Centenary Book has already been launched, and he is now in the finishing stages of a volume recording the complete obituaries of OPs from 1917 to the present. **The Committee unanimously passed a vote of thanks to Robin for his efforts over the past few years.**
- The cover of the Obituary Book was presented for the Committee to see. It was noted that there is a plan to have a digital version of this book online for OPs to search, but hard copies will also be available.

12. Communication

- OP Magazine – The 2017 Centenary edition of the OP Magazine will be Robin Knight's last. Production and editing of future magazines, under the guidance of the OP Society, may well fall to the Development Office after this. The Development Office team are keen to better coordinate all OP Communication (including social media, email, print) so this would be welcomed.
- Next email newsletter will be sent out in May by the Development Office. *Update: this is ready to go out, but there is a problem with the OP website which is preventing new stories/images being posted. As soon as this is resolved the Development Office can upload links and send out the newsletter.*
- IT matters including Website/Facebook/Twitter and Linked in. The Committee have received a quote for maintenance of the OP Website at £210 per month from the 1st June. Merrick Rayner to investigate with Fergus van Niekerk and see the final contract.

13. Honorary OPs

- Thomas Garnier reported that work is ongoing to identify those members of staff who should be put forward as Honorary OPs. These can be brought to the October meeting.

14. Date and Place of Future Meetings

- 8th October (Including AGM), 5pm - at the College