



MINUTES OF THE OP SOCIETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 14 March 2017
Naval Club, Mayfair, London

Present: R Knight (Hon. Vice-President), M Rayner (Chairman), P Smitham (Treasurer), A Sterling, C Parry, M Nicholson, J Fisher, L Howard, J Faulkner, R Tanner, J Beckett Dunn, C Howard, R Givan, S Duck, R Paterson, K Hartshorn (Director of Development)

Apologies: R Shuttleworth (President), I Williams (Vice-President), M Dumas (Vice-President), L Stephens (Hon. Vice-President), T Garnier (Headmaster), R Meacher (Secretary), F van Niekerk, W Donaldson, P Lawrence, J Greaves, A Wells, D Metcalfe

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Saturday 8 October 2016 were deemed to be a true and correct record and were approved. (*Proposed: P Smitham / Seconded: C Parry*)

Chairman's Report

In addition to his written report (included), the Chairman thanked the College for their efforts in organising the OP Weekend last October and Centenary events since.

It was unanimously agreed to give Robin Paine a vote of thanks on behalf of the OP Society for his efforts in organising the very successful OP Weekend in Auckland, New Zealand, at the end of February. *Action: MR to write to Robin Paine.*

A vote of thanks was also given to Michael Duck, for his work in organising the Hong Kong Dinner at the end of February. *Update: an email of thanks has been sent by MR.*

Anna Sterling was also thanked for her help in confirming the Guest of Honour at the forthcoming OP Dinner on 21 April and ensuring the use of the Gloriana on 2 July at Henley Royal Regatta.

Hon Secretary's Report

OP deaths since the last meeting are listed on the OP Website. In particular, we should mention the death and funeral of Margaret Points, wife of former Headmaster Peter Points,

in February. The OP Society was represented at her funeral by Robin Paterson, John Fisher and Robin Knight.

Headmaster's Report

In the absence of the Headmaster, a written report (included) was circulated and Karen Hartshorn spoke on his behalf. Two forthcoming College events were noted, which are raising funds for the Pangbourne Centenary Charity. A whole College walk is taking place on Wednesday 15 March, when each Division will attempt to walk 1000 miles followed by a 100 mile run (or, 30 people running 3.3 miles each!). A Centenary Charity Dinner on 25 March is aimed at all members of the community who wish to attend; there are currently 150-160 bookings. In case any members of the OP Committee wish to support the Centenary Charity, the online link is below:

<https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/pangbournecollege>

There was discussion about a future fundraising programme at the College, which will commence in full from September 2017. It was felt that fundraising for Bursaries and Scholarships, as well as specific named capital projects, would be more successful than a general campaign.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Hon. Treasurer reported current reserves of £47,380 in the OP Society bank account as of 1 March. This is before bills for drinks in Auckland is factored in, which will come from the Nigel Hollebhone bequest. It was agreed that the Nigel Hollebhone bequest would also be appropriate to fund welcome drinks and port at the OP Dinner in April.

Also approved were: £200 to the fledgling OP Military Group for their first meeting on 5 April, and £100 to go behind the bar at a forthcoming Young OP gathering.

Social Committee Report

The report of the social committee is covered by the Centenary Update below.

Matters arising from the previous minutes

These were submitted with the agenda.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding between Pangbourne College and the OP Society was accepted with one minor revision regarding Honorary OPs. This will be formally voted on at the May Committee meeting. *Action: KH to update and circulate with minutes.*

The draft Terms of Reference for a new Pangbourne Association were agreed in principle, with the proviso that the College must drive the Committee and make sure that the Association works this time around. Anna Sterling offered her help, should it be required.

Larry Howard reported a date of 27 April has been set for a Young OP gathering at a pub in central London. The venue will be confirmed with Karen Hartshorn as soon as possible so it can be included in a forthcoming OP newsletter. *Action: LH to confirm venue with KH as soon as possible.*

Centenary Update

In addition to the events listed on the Centenary Update, the following can also be added:

25 March *Centenary Charity Dinner at College*
1 April *Devitt Family Lunch at College*
19 May *'Welcome to the OP Society' BBQ at College for current Upper Sixth*
28/29 October *Possible US Reunion event in Chicago*

Updates on other events were as follows:

West Country Lunch (7 April): around 70 people are now confirmed for this. Both Merrick Rayner and Karen Hartshorn plan to attend. Emma Draper (96-00) has been lined up as an OP speaker for the event.

OP Dinner (21 April): 220 OPs are booked for this, either black-tie or Paravacini blazers will be acceptable dress. *Action: KH to discuss with Sir Steve Redgrave's PA his requirements for an introduction and any other things we should be aware of.*

Centenary Service (9 May): HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are confirmed as the Guests of Honour. There will be a service in Chapel, a short walk-about, a small lunch in the Old Library, and a short Parade after lunch. Whilst all attempts will be made to include as many OPs as possible, the College hopes that OPs will understand that not all will have the opportunity to meet or be introduced. The lunch guests will include representation from all sectors of the Pangbourne community, including OPs. Invitations to the service and lunch will be forthcoming.

OPYC Rally and dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron (20/21 May): 57 guests are confirmed for this so far, with room for up to 100.

Centenary Ball (1 July): Tickets, at £100 per person, will go on sale from 1 April.

Gloriana Row (2 July): The 18 rowing spaces have been offered to members of the four Princess Elizabeth Cup winning crews (1963, 1971, 1992, 2003), current Captains of Boats, and OPs who rowed internationally. Any additional spaces will be filled by those OPs on the waiting list who offered to participate. In addition there will be spectator spaces on Gloriana plus on the College Dunkirk Little Ship, MB278, so all who wish to participate should have the chance. There will also be a lunch at the Pangbourne College gazebo beforehand.

Founders' Day (8 July): This is still a work in progress, with Guest of Honour yet to be confirmed.

First Day Service (1 September): Nothing to report at this time.

Anna Sterling asked whether, as the oldest living OP, Commander Keith Evans could take a Parade or be Guest of Honour for a College Sunday. *Action: KH to raise with the Headmaster.*

Sport Committee Report

Charlie Parry reported that the OP Golf day is Friday 9 June at the New Zealand Golf Club.

Richard Givan reported that the 3rd Matchplay draw was done, and that so far 27 OPs are involved. It goes through to October and the final will be at the Berkshire.

Robin Knight made a plea for the OP Cricket on Founders' Day to be adequately reported and written up afterwards. *Action: KH to investigate who is organising this year and discuss with them.*

There was disappointment that no OP Rugby was able to be organised for the OP Weekend last October, and agreement that OP Sport is an area for development.

Communication

OP Facebook and LinkedIn groups are working well, with increased postings to both pages in recent months.

After much discussion, it was agreed that the OP Society will merge the existing OP website into the College website. This will remove the cost to the OP Society, as the website will then fall under the existing College contract. It will also increase the number of people at College who are able to update the website, and will mean that technical support is provided by the existing website contractors. *Action: KH to investigate time and resources required to move content across and develop an OP section of the College website.*

Robin Knight was congratulated for his work on the 2017 edition of the OP Magazine. There was strong feeling from the Committee that the OP Magazine continues to be published annually in print form. This position is also supported by the Director of Development. It was agreed that the content should remain OP-centric and about the OP community. How this will work in practice after 2018 is yet to be established, but there was willingness for this process to be managed and coordinated by the Development Office at that point in time.

AOB

The new OP Military Alumni Group will have their first meeting at the Army & Navy Club on 5 April. It was felt that they could use the Naval Club in future.

Merrick Rayner reported that a number of vacancies will arise on the Committee as of the October 2017 AGM. Members should think about who might be good candidates to stand in the vacant spaces. In particular, Merrick will be retiring as Chairman. He and several other OP Society committee members have been considering who would be a good replacement, and David Nicholson has been identified as a suitable successor. He is very experienced in communications and careers, both areas for development, and he already has a very good relationship with the College. There was unanimous support for David's candidacy, and it was agreed to invite him to the 16 May Committee meeting.

It was also agreed that an increased number of female committee members would be of benefit to the entire group.

Finally, the brand new OP Ladies' brooch was debuted to the group, featuring the new OP Society crest as its design. It will retail for £15 per brooch.

Date of Next Meeting

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16 May 2017, 18.00 at the Naval Club.

AGM and Committee Meeting: Tuesday 17 October 2017, 18.00 at the Naval Club, to be followed by a drinks reception.