

Minutes of the 115th Annual General Meeting of the Marlburian Club held on Saturday 8 October 2011 at 10.15 am in the Ellis Theatre

The President, Rear Admiral Colin Cooke-Priest, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. He mentioned two OMs who had recently died: his Honour Judge David Savill (LI 1944-48) QC, Senior Circuit Judge, Honourable Recorder at Leeds and former President of the Club, and DRC West (B1 1935-40), former House Master of Barton Hill and Officer in Charge of the Army Section of the CCF who commanded the Corps.

1. To approve the Minutes of the 114th AGM held on 9 October 2010.

The President proposed that the Minutes be approved as an accurate record of proceedings. This was seconded by Alan Gillett and they were duly signed.

2. To Adopt the Accounts to 31 March 2011.

The Treasurer spoke briefly about the Club Accounts, these having been previously circulated. There has been a rise in subscriptions since the previous year, with over £80,000 coming in. Costs related to Magazine production had been tightly controlled. Investments totalled around £91,000, a recovery from the previous year, however poor market performance may mean that this sum is slightly reduced in the coming year. The previous Treasurer, Quintin Heaney, had looked into moving the funds to higher yielding investments, but funds would then be subject to Capital Gains Tax which would have a significant impact on the funds. The Committee had agreed to keep the investments in the existing funds which have been performing satisfactorily. The Committee formulated a new policy to support start up Affiliated Clubs and those Clubs entering leagues, and as a result a one off grant of £500 had been given to the OM Football Club. Another one off expense was the purchase of a silver-plated cup for £200 from the Silver Vaults for the Shell OM Reading Prize.

The adoption of the Club accounts was proposed by Alan Gillett and was seconded by the President and these were agreed *nem con*.

The President invited James Abell, Treasurer of The Charitable Funds, to report on The Marlburian Club Charitable Fund Accounts.

The Marlburian Club Charitable Funds consist of three charities that are managed by Trustees appointed by the Club Committee. The objects of these charities include:

- Helping OMs and their dependents in difficulty;
- Funding bursaries and scholarships for College pupils and for OMs undergoing professional or further education;
- Making grants for the general benefit of the College.

The Charities' net assets at 31 March 2011 were £4.48 million compared to £4.20 million the previous year. The capital return on investments was 4.6% and the income yield was 3.4%. The fund's investments are in units of M&G Charifund which is a UK equity fund, and CCLA's charities investment fund which is a global equity fund.

The recent setbacks in financial markets mean that the funds' net asset value had dropped to £4.15 million at 30 September 2011. Income for the year was £138,596, while administration costs were £5,721 (this mostly related to audit and publication of the accounts). The funds made grants of just under £45,000 including £26,000 for scholarships and bursaries, £4,750 for GAP year grants and £8,250 grants towards further and professional education.

This left a net surplus for the year of £88,000 which the Trustees expect to be made available to support a capital project at the College.

The President thanked James Abell for his work on behalf of the Club.

The adoption of the Charitable Accounts was proposed by Tim Suter and was seconded by Susanna Spicer and these were agreed *nem con*.

3. To re-elect the Hon. Treasurer.

The President proposed that Ian MacKichan (PR 1974-79) be re-elected as Treasurer. Katie Naylor (CO 1974-76) seconded. The Members unanimously agreed.

4. To appoint the Auditors.

haysmacintyre had served the Club well and the Treasurer proposed that they continue as Auditor. The Members unanimously agreed.

6. President's Report.

The President thanked Members for attending the AGM. Under the direction of Association Director, John Crawley, the Marlborough Association, had been successful in bringing together the overall corporate identity of the College, Club and Foundation, while ensuring funds raised by subscriptions were ring-fenced for activities that benefited Club Members as agreed by the Committee. Martin Evans has devolved much of the day to day running of the Club to Jane Pendry, now Alumni Relations Manager. Jan Perrins, as Development Officer, and Jo Brailsford-Finnis, as Information & Communications Officer joined this team this year.

The new Club website is proving popular with members. The site enables OMs to search the database and communicate with each other directly. The Website will enable us to make far greater use of e-communications with on-line booking forms and we will better be able to support industry linked groups, which will provide more focused and targeted networking opportunities.

The Affiliated Clubs continue to flourish as do the many core events, which include the London Dinner, Annual Dinner and Annual Leavers' Reunion.

The President thanked the three Committee Members who were standing down: Chris Caprmael, Libby Keir and Christopher Pymont and also thanked his two predecessors, Sarah Hamilton-Fairley and Tim Suter, who had been most generous with their time.

The Club is in good heart and good shape to remain relevant to OMs of the future.

7. To elect the President

The President proposed that Steven Bishop (PR 1969-73) be elected as the next President of the Club. Steven Bishop is a Trustee of the Charitable Funds and a current Member of the Marlburian Club Committee and a current Parent. He gained a double hockey Blue at Oxford, where he studied PPE, and had a successful career in the banking industry. Susanna Spicer seconded. Steven Bishop was elected as President with acclaim.

Steven Bishop made a short acceptance speech thanking Members for endorsing his election. He looked forward to making new friendships and was particularly pleased to be attending the 1917 Commemorative Dinner in January 2012. With sorrow, he bade farewell to the Master who, he noted, had made such strides in moving the College forward. He announced his intention to launch a new Presidents' Fund to raise funds on an ongoing basis to support bursaries and scholarships but assured the Members that he had no intention of changing the Club ethos, but felt that it should extend its support. The fund would aim to build up a healthy endowment over the years with a view to helping to broaden the background of the College's intake. The President urged Members to attend forthcoming events and looked forward to meeting many of them over the coming year.

8. To Nominate the President (2011-12)

The President thanked Steven Bishop and moved to nominate Christopher Martin-Jenkins (B3 1958-63) as the President for 2012-13. CMJ was Captain of Cricket at the College and wrote to Brian Johnson asking him how to become a cricket correspondent and is now one of Britain's most respected sports reporters. Steven Bishop seconded the nomination, and his appointment was warmly endorsed by those present.

9. To elect three new Members to the Committee.

The President proposed that three new members be elected to the Committee: Andrew Barnes (B1 1973-79), proposed by Mike Dana and seconded by Ian MacKichan; Lord Clifton (SU 1981-86), proposed by Chris Pymont and seconded by Susanna Spicer and, Imogen Hendricks, née Skeggs (BH 1979-81), proposed by Hattie Jagger and seconded by Tim Suter. The Members unanimously voted in the new Committee Members.

10. Club Constitution

Richard Fleck, Trustee and Committee Member, explained that an enormous amount of work had gone in to revising the Club Constitution to bring it up to date with current practices. The Rules and Constitution had been debated over and agreed by the full Committee at the September meeting. The final Constitution reflects best and current practise. The new Constitution had been circulated to all Members present and had been posted on the Website for 6 weeks prior to the meeting.

Richard Fleck highlighted the following points:

- The Membership process as detailed in the original Constitution had been simplified. Subject to payment of subscriptions, pupils would become Club Members on finishing their sixth form year, or, if leaving earlier, at the time they would have finished their Sixth Form year.
- The rules reflect the use of electronic communications and state that the AGM Minutes will be distributed by email, be posted on the Club Website or be sent to Members on demand. A summary of the AGM Minutes and Accounts will be mailed to each Member and Members may apply for a printed copy if they wish.
- The new Constitution reflected changes to the role of the Treasurer.

11. The Master's Report.

The Master delivered a passionate speech, outlining the values of the College, its many achievements over the year and the Council's vision for the future.

- The Master noted that Martin Evans, Club Secretary, had an enduring love for Marlborough and after 43 years service continued to bring a humourous and effervescent quality to the Club. Martin had been one of the great teachers of Marlborough and his continuing commitment to the Club was greatly appreciated.
- With the average mark equivalent, in UCAS points, to four A's and one A* grade at A level, the first IB results have proved positive. Numbers for the IB are growing after a poor start. The qualification suits Marlburians and teaches them to work hard. It is a qualification that impresses leading academic international institutions. Although there had been a minor reduction in A level grades last year, results for the Pre U and Extended Project qualification were very good. Government policy regarding A levels is unclear and there is no coherence which does not serve the young well. The College is therefore committed to providing more challenging qualifications to extend the most able.
- 60% of OMs gained places at the University in the top 100 universities in the world. The Sutton Trust rates Marlborough 32nd at getting good students in to the Russell Group of Universities.
- There are now very few full boarding schools and we are always able to attract top rate academics to live and work in the College, and have had a number of high calibre staff joining us this year.
- It has been a good, but not outstanding, year for sport. The ethos at Marlborough is that sport is not just for the elite, but for everyone, and all pupils are involved in sporting activities.
- The leadership of Drama and Music is in gifted hands and as a result we have had a number of pupils taking part in the Edinburgh Festival and our talented Music Scholars have further improved the standard of music at the College. The Gala Concert is the crystallisation of great education, preparation, rehearsal and practice.

- Service is the heart of the School's mission. For seven years we have worked with Swindon Academy, which had among the worst GCSE results, but which continues to make steady improvements. We have been able to support Academy pupils through the university application process and Marlborough pupils have mentored Academy pupils in both maths and science. The Combined Cadet Forces includes pupils from the Academy and some of our more able pupils are helping to teach Academy pupils maths. Our pupils have visited schools and visited the elderly and young families in their homes.
- With so many talented and gifted pupils wanting to join the School, the Master reassured Club Members that demand for places at the School was very high.
- The Master paid tribute to Richard Fleck's work on Marlborough Malaysia, which is on schedule to open in September 2012. The Master emphasised that the School is not a franchise but a partnership with the Malaysian Government with no risk to fee income and no risk to capital. Marlborough Malaysia will provide opportunities for current pupils, and International Study Centres will be set up in both Schools and will provide Marlborough pupils with access to the Islamic World and Asia.
- The market position is very strong, with more prospective parents visiting the school than ever, despite current economic conditions. The new system of Admissions is working well.
- Marlborough College continues to be involved in the debate for educational reform. Although invited to speak to both the Malaysian and Chinese Governments, the College is not involved in direct discussions with the British Government. Private schools are not responsible for social division and the Council feel strongly that the nation's intellectual capital should not be devalued, and university entrance requirements should not be skewed by social engineering. Marlborough College is in a position to make the most of its independence, and to break away from the national consensus and to seek platforms to talk about issues in both the state and independent sector.
- The College had purchased the Ivy House and announced that it had sought, and gained approval for its change of use from a Hotel to a Girls' Boarding House. The cost of conversion had been largely made possible by the generous bequest of OM Reggie Wills.
- The College was sad to see Clare Russell, Classics Teacher and Douglas Dales, College Chaplain, retiring this year. The Master acknowledged the brilliant lifetime contribution of Colin Fraser, Second Master and former House Master, who retired in July. He had coloured every part of college life and he would be remembered for his magnanimity and learning.
- The Master concluded that Marlborough College was not about buildings but people, and that pupils continued to be encouraged to be open, interested, principled and impressionable in the best sense of the word. Future members of Common Room must match the distinction of former Members with their commitment to developing the young through compassion, companionship and conversation. The School is in a good place and is headed for a great future.

The Master took a number of questions from Members.

- Further details regarding the Admission process were requested and the Master explained that the School had moved away from registering large numbers of pupils, and then admitting very few. Closing lists years in advance was no longer considered appropriate. Equal access is now given to all those that apply at 11. Interviews are more strongly based on reports from Prep School Head Masters and the aim was to offer places to those that really wanted to come to Marlborough, rather than to offer places held in reserve to those that didn't. Credit was now given to children of OMs.
- The College had moved away from being a 'fashionable' school for the 'chattering classes' and towards being a school that was leading rather than following. With fees of over £30,000 the School won't attract a broad social base but despite an increase in available bursarial support, it had proved difficult to recruit pupils to take up funded places. The social, cultural and family upheaval for some prospective pupils had made the aim of achieving wider social inclusion difficult but it continued to be an aim of the School

- In answer to a Members' question about how top IB results compared to 4A's and an A* at A Level, the Master answered that the many further education institutions had privately expressed a preference for IB but were not prepared to undermine the national system by declaring so publically. Current A levels are very different in standard to those that Members present had studied but this was not a fact that was universally acknowledged.

The Master was accorded an enthusiastic round of applause from Members present.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.

Jane Pendry on behalf of Martin Evans, Club Secretary
October 2010