



## THE MARLBURIAN CLUB

### **Minutes of the 116th Annual General Meeting of the Marlburian Club, held on Saturday 6th October 2012, in the Ellis Theatre, Marlborough College.**

The President, Steven Bishop welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He explained the unavoidable rescheduling of the Club Day programme of events was as a result of the number of Chapel choir members playing in away fixtures.

Steven Bishop then read an email he had received from Christopher Martin-Jenkins.

“Good luck at the AGM and for the coming year. I am so sorry not to be there to support you. Would you please convey to the meeting how disappointed I am to be unable to be present on Saturday.”

It was agreed that the Club Secretary be asked to send the meeting’s heartfelt good wishes to CMJ. Sadly, the deaths of a number of OMs, were recorded: Bill Freeman, who had been the senior OM at the Annual Dinner and at Club Day for many years, attending without fail; former Preshute housemaster Mike Birley, who was of the same vintage as Bill, also died at the turn of the year. Three long serving members of Common Room also passed away in the past year – Bill Spray, Frank McKim and Robert Avery.

The President also noted that the Club Secretary, Martin Evans had not only celebrated his 70th birthday this year but was entering his 45th year of continual service to the College. This was greeted with acclaim.

#### **1. To approve the Minutes of the 115th AGM held on 8th October 2011.**

The President proposed that the Minutes be approved as an accurate record of proceedings. This was seconded by Alan Gillett. The motion was passed *nem con.*

#### **2. To adopt the accounts to 31st March 2012.**

The Treasurer Ian McKichan said the Marlburian Club’s net assets as of 31st March 2012 were £88,455 in quoted investment trusts (2011: £91,455) plus a surplus for the year of £4347.99, giving a total of £92,802.99. The Magazine and July mailing had come in on budget, although travel expenses had increased. Costs had been significantly tightened for the magazine and advertising revenue was up 100% and expectations are that this trend should continue into the next fiscal year. Thanks were due to Jane Pendry and the committee for their work in this area. IM said more adverts were welcome.

The Club is making more effort with younger OMs, instigating a number of events to bring industry related groups together, for instance a Finance event in January. It was also giving more support to sporting affiliated groups.

Generous donations from OMs and the Charitable Trust funded the Master’s Portrait.

Website costs were greater than anticipated, as the fee for the maintenance of the database had not been included in the budget.

The Treasurer proposed the report be accepted and this was seconded by Robert Smith. The motion was passed *nem con.*

James Abell, Treasurer of the Charitable Funds, reported that 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 tenable at the College and for OMs undergoing professional or further education;
- Making grants for the general benefit of the College.

The Charities' net assets at 31 March 2012 were £4.40 million compared to £4.48 million the previous year. The capital return on investments was 0.2% (better than the FTSE 100 and 250 which both decreased in the year) and the income yield was 3.2%. 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. In line with rising markets, the funds' net asset value has increased by £200,000 to £4.6 million since March 31 2012.

Income for the year was £134,956, while administration costs were just under £6,000 (this mostly related to audit and publication of the accounts). The funds made grants of £223,000 including £200,000 to the College towards the Ivy House, £14,500 for scholarships and bursaries, and smaller amounts for GAP year grants and grants towards further and professional education.

This left a net deficit for the year of £94,000 compared to a surplus of £88,000 last year. The deficit includes the Ivy House grant which is not a recurring item. It is the Trustees' policy not to accumulate income over the longer term, but because grant activity is "lumpy", it will have surpluses some years and deficits in others.

James Abell was asked what was happening with the Daubney Fund. He explained the Daubney Fund has two branches, the College Branch which held one third of the assets, and the Education Fund which held two thirds. The College Fund is used for grants for the general benefit of the College, and the Education Fund is used for grants and bursaries for OMs in further and professional education. Recent grants from this section include grants to medical students undertaking electives, and a contribution to the University expenses for a former pupil who had been on a full bursary while at the College.

He was also asked if MCCF was a registered charity and able to claim gift aid on donations? JA said it was. However, he added that the charity was well endowed and made its grants out of investment income. It had not been soliciting donations as the Trustees did not wish to compete with the College's various fund raising activities.

James Abell proposed the report be approved and this was seconded by Colin Cooke-Priest. The resolution was passed *nem con*. Steven Bishop thanked both the Treasurer and James Abell for their work.

### **3. To re-elect the Hon Treasurer, Ian McKichan.**

Although more of the administration of the Club's finances is now carried out by Maureen Bond and her colleagues in the College bursary, the President explained that the Treasurer plays a very important role in the Club's affairs and that he was very grateful for his valuable contribution and willingness to serve again for another year. The President proposed the Club Treasurer be re-elected and Prof. Alan Gillett seconded. The Treasurer was re-elected unanimously.

### **4. To appoint the auditors, Hays MacIntyre.**

The Treasurer proposed the company be re-appointed and was seconded by Giles Bowring. The company was thanked for its work and the resolution was passed *nem con*.

## 5. The President's Report

The President said his predecessor began his report last year by drawing attention to the success of the Association under its director, John Crawley. He hoped it had not been a reflection on him, but no sooner had he arrived at the College than John Crawley told him he had just handed in his notice. He said it was of great credit to all the members of that office but particularly to Martin and Jane, that the Club has had as busy and successful a year as any he could remember.

He was delighted at the progress the Club had made in re-establishing contact with many OMs who had been lost to the Club, in some cases since they left the College. There is no doubt that modern communications media have helped this process. The Club currently has over 5000 email addresses for OMs, over half of which opened the Club Connect update last week. As of Thursday, the Club had 978 registrants on its website and 764 people responded to the on line survey which it recently undertook, the results of which he looked forward to sharing with members in the near future. There had been a record attendance at the Annual Dinner in March and despite the slightly disappointing, if not entirely unexpected, low turnout of the 85-95 decade reunion, it looks as if there would be over 200 OMs attending Club Day 2012.

The President said he was slightly surprised to discover that he had attended almost 40 dinners, lunches, reunions, services, sporting events, careers fair, concerts, committee meetings and other ad-hoc meetings on Club business. Amongst the highlights was a fantastic trip organised by David du Croz to Ypres and the 95th anniversary dinner in Bailleul in January. The unveiling of Susanna Fiennes' magnificent portrait of Nick Sampson at the dinner in March, was another special event. Steven Bishop added that none of these occasions would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Martin and Jane, particularly over the last month when there have been three events on successive weekends. The President said he was happy to express publicly his personal gratitude to them both.

He reported that the Club's sports affiliates were going from strength to strength, although Clifton have been our nemesis this year with defeats at their hands in the Halford Hewitt, Cricketer Cup, Henry Leaf (the real tennis competition founded by an OM which the Club had entered for the first time for a long time this year) and against the Malones, the OM rugby team. Fortunately, the OM football team who won its division of the Arthurian League in their first season did come up against the boys from Bristol! The Club should also congratulate Richard Jeens on winning the World Individual Long Range Rifle Championship in Brisbane last November.

His only disappointment was the consigning of his wish to establish a Presidents' Fund, which the President had mentioned both at last year's AGM and in the Club Magazine, to the pending tray, if not the long grass. It was felt that such an initiative might cause confusion at a time when the College is preparing to launch a significant Development Plan. The President said he acknowledged the rationale but remained committed to trying to increase the diversity of Marlburians.

The President was delighted to have the opportunity to welcome both a new Master and a new Chaplain. He also thanked the Club Committee for all their support over the past 12 months. He said they were an impressive group who were keen to help the Club develop and grow, to embrace change, but change for progress, not its own sake.

In conclusion the President said the role of the Club was to protect the ethos of the College, to preserve and nurture the affection of Marlburians for the College and to promote the lifelong friendships developed at, and after, Marlborough, by facilitating communication and comradeship. He said he was pleased to report that the Club continues to work hard and be successful in pursuit of those aims.

**6. To consider and, if thought appropriate, to approve the establishment of the position of 'Chairman of the Marlburian Club' and to approve the consequential amendments that are set out in red in the amended version of the Marlburian Club Constitution and Rules available on the Club Website.**

The President explained that the proposal was borne out of an acknowledgement that the role of President had become increasingly onerous in recent years and at the same time the President has had very little opportunity to lead the Club during a period of quite rapid change. The plan is that there should be a division of labour, whereby the President remains the head of the Club and guardian of all members' interests, whilst the Chairman works closely with the Association, the Development team and the College to maximise the benefits of the Club to the College, always ensuring that the Club remains that guardian of the College ethos to which he referred earlier.

The major issue with this was the requirement to find another volunteer. The President envisaged the role being filled perhaps by a slightly younger OM, probably a recent or current parent whose knowledge of and ties to the school were good. Following a discussion with the Club committee, the President agreed to be considered as the inaugural Chairman. One of his first tasks would be to identify a successor.

Another issue, raised by Past President Major General Sir Desmond Rice, whose view, in the interests of full disclosure, the President promised to communicate to the meeting was what happens if the President and Chairman did not get on. The President said he had discussed this with a number of his predecessors, as well as his successor as President, and he was confident that such friction was extremely unlikely.

Colin Cooke-Priest said he had been a committee member for three years, 20 years ago, and then had been closely involved with the Club again over the last three years. The demands on the President had increased immeasurably and bore no relation to what it used to be. Colin Cooke-Priest said he had felt a sense of frustration that he had not been able to achieve as much as he would have liked in one year. The position of Chairman would be able to create a sense of continuity and he was firmly in favour of this proposal.

Prof. Alan Gillett asked how it would work. The President said he believed the Club needed to work more closely with the College, especially in the light of the major development plan that was being planned. He said that the Chairman would act as a guardian of the interests of the Club, to which he had referred earlier, alongside the need of the College to raise funds. The Chairman would act as a 'go-between'.

Colin Cooke-Priest added that the creation of the Marlborough Association had added to the work load of the President and was another good reason for the creation of the role of Chairman.

James Worthington asked if the role would at some point be defined more specifically and what would happen if a new President comes in with different ideas to the Chairman? The President likened the role to that within the MCC, where the President is the senior member of the club and acts as a figure head, while the Chairman interacts much more frequently in an executive capacity, on the operations of the Club.

The President proposed the creation of the new position and Anthony Kent seconded. The motion was passed *nem con.*

## **7. To re-elect the President Steven Bishop.**

Colin Cooke-Priest explained that because Christopher Martin-Jenkins (CMJ) was unable to take the chair, it was proposed that the President continued in office for another year. Imogen Hendricks seconded. The motion was passed *nem con.*

## **8. To nominate the President for 2013-14.**

It was explained by the President that CMJ was unable to take up the presidency. His prognosis is not clear but the Committee remained hopeful that he will be able to become President in October 2013. However, the President proposed a departure from normal procedure to ensure that there is a smooth succession whatever the circumstances.

The proposal was that for the next 12 months there would be two Presidents-elect. CMJ will continue in that role and become President in October 2013 if he is able to do so, and the second President Elect will continue in that position for a further 12 months. If those circumstances do not prevail, then the second President Elect will take up the Presidency next year. The President said he was delighted to announce that the Committee's recommendation was Lord (Robin) Janvrin.

The President gave a brief biography of Robin Janvrin, who was in B1 from 1960-64 before joining the Royal Navy straight from school, serving in the Senior Service until 1975, during which time he gained a first in PPE from Brasenose. After the Navy he joined the Foreign Office where he had appointments at NATO and in Delhi amongst others. From 1987 he served for 20 years in the Royal Household, culminating in the position of The Queen's Private Secretary between 1999 and 2007. On his retirement he was made a life peer and now divides his time between working as a cross bencher in the Lords, Deputy Chairman of HSBC Private Bank and as Chairman of the Trustees of the Royal Foundation of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry. In addition, he serves on the Boards of the National Portrait Gallery and the Ghurkha Welfare Trust.

The President said he was delighted that Robin had accepted the invitation to become President and extremely grateful that he is both willing and able to take up the role either in 2013 or 2014 as necessary. "I have enormous pleasure in proposing that Robin Janvrin should join CMJ as president elect," said the President. Prof Gillett seconded. The motion was passed with acclaim.

Robin Janvrin thanked everyone for the honour of electing him as President Elect, for what would hopefully be two years. He added that he was looking forward hugely to serving the Club.

"I have been a lapsed Marlburian for some time, because I have been so busy. This will be a wonderful way of reconnecting with an extraordinary institution, where I had a very happy time. I look forward to getting to know you all," said Lord Janvrin.

## **9. To elect the Chairman for 2013-14.**

Colin Cooke-Priest assumed the Chair at the invitation of the President and said that in the light of the earlier agreement, Steven Bishop would become the first ever Chairman. James Abell proposed and Ian MacKichan seconded. The motion was passed *nem con*.

## **10. To elect three new members of the Committee.**

The President said he would like to thank three retiring members of the Committee: Clare Heath, who had provided loyal service to the College as both a member of Council and a Club committee member; Hattie Jagger, who had the inspiration to organise the Pink Champagne Party, which had become part of Club folklore; and Alex Greer, who had been an energetic London Secretary and a founder member of both the Malones and the OM Football squad.

In addition, after a period of years too long to remember Mike Dana has stepped down from the Committee. The President said he was sorry that he was unable to attend Club Day (he was sailing for the OMs in the Arrow Trophy) but his contribution to the Club, in particular in the publication of the magazine, cannot go unremarked and the Club owed him a great debt of gratitude.

The committee's recommendations to fill the three elected vacancies were:

- Harry Vickers (SU 2000-05): Proposed: Ian MacKichan; Seconded: Richard Fleck
- Roger Backhouse (C3 1974-79): Proposed: Alex Greer; Seconded: Susanna Spicer
- Victoria Pakenham (EL 1998-2003): Proposed: Andrew Barnes; Seconded: Steven Bishop

Two OM's were purposely chosen from the decade whose reunion will be next year, and one of their primary duties will be to generate support for Club Day from their contemporaries. It is the Club's intention to continue this arrangement in future years.

All three candidates have demonstrated their love of the College and their willingness to volunteer in recent times and all three candidates were approved.

#### **11. Any other business.**

Prof Gillett thanked the President for all these efforts and said whilst he had only been to two events, they had been excellent and he extended his thanks to Jane Pendry and the Club Secretary.

The President reminded OMs of the London Reception at the end of November, which included a tour of the House of Lords and the Annual Dinner at the RAC Club in London on March 6th 2013.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 11.45am.