

Minutes of the 126th Marlburian Club Annual General Meeting 2022

The 126th Marlburian Club AGM took place via Zoom on 31st October at 7.00pm

1. President Nick Cooke Priest (LI 1983 – 85) welcomed everyone to the 126th AGM and introduced the format of the evening being the AGM followed by OM of the Year Presentation and Talk. He asked those present to take a moment to remember all the Club Members who have been lost in the past year.
2. To approve the minutes of the 125th AGM held on October 2021. There were no questions on the minutes so the Chair, Karen Hill (B2/MM 1988 – 90), asked that the Minutes be approved as an accurate record of proceedings and Nick Cooke-Priest seconded. There were no dissenters and the minutes were approved nem con.
3. To re-elect the Hon. Treasurer, James Spender (EL/C2 1987-92). This was proposed by Imran Tayabali (LI 1989 – 92) and seconded by Ed Gregg (C2 1988 – 93). There being no dissenters, James was duly re-elected.
4. To adopt the Accounts for the Marlburian Club and MCCF to the 31st March 2022. James Spender reported that the value of the Club Investments has gone from £353,819 to £339,242. Fund custody was transferred to Rathbones and the Finance Sub-Group will manage the funds in the best interest of the Club Members. Some funds were released for benefit of Club Members and the investments will be diversified, some to be reinvested in income-generating funds to provide additional income to maintain projects in the future as interest rates normalise.

Club finances have supported the return to in-person events. The triennial dinner is a key note in the income increase and also event costs. There has been significant inflation – particularly in the Club magazine production costs. The 2021 surplus covers the 2022 deficit three times over.

Robin Brodhurst (PR 1965 – 70) asked that the spend on marketing be explained. A spend on Personas was agreed, to be covered by the funds available from the previous year's surplus. RB asked for further clarification on personas. JS replied that an agency, Forrester, had been retained to undertake research across all demographics of the Club and create a report on the needs and expectations of these different demographics so that the Club could tailor activities and communications to meet their needs. RB asked if this had been worthwhile and questioned the need as the demographics of club members are held by the Club office and that going from an operating profit of £44K to a deficit of £14.5K needed more explanation.

JS further explained that the surplus had built up over two years of COVID restrictions and that some had been put towards in person events including, the triennial dinner, to reduce costs for members and to promote and raise awareness of the Club's events and other offerings post Covid.

Club Committee member Imran Tayabali added that although the Club holds demographic information on its membership, the work undertaken was to enable the Club to get in touch with the members that we are no longer in contact with or those who have become distant. Thus, enabling access to a wider range of OMs and also

understanding what these different demographics want from the Marlburian Club along with the best ways of communicating with them.

RB thought that the work undertaken was reasonable but that this had not been explained in enough detail or clarity to the membership. This was duly noted.

MMCF Charitable Trust:

Imran Tayabali, Treasurer reported that MCCF holds the investments for the Club's Charitable Trust which provide opportunities and support for OMs and bursarial and other support for the College. At year end (31/3/2022) the funds had grown to £8 million from £7.2 million the previous year. They have taken a hit in the last few months of market instability but are still robust. The income on the investments in this financial year was £175K and the Trust also received an unexpected gift of £65K from an OM's will. In the same period, the Trust committed to funding a further £105Ks worth of bursaries, so at 31 March 2022 it was providing funding for the equivalent of 4 full time bursaries.

There being no questions KH thanked IT and JS for all their work and time spent on the Club's behalf.

The motion was proposed by Catherine Stewart (LI 1975 – 76), seconded by Robert Chase (LI 1961 – 66) and there being no objections the accounts for both the Club and MCCF were duly adopted.

5. To re-appoint the auditors, HaysMcIntyre. Proposed by James Spender and seconded by Mayo Patel (PR 1973-77). There being no objections HaysMcIntyre were duly re-appointed.
6. Chair's Report: The Chair reported that attendance had been dropping for Club Day and this, along with the survey of Club Members which showed OMs put most value on reuniting with their peers and the networking opportunities offered by the Professional Group events, led the Club Committee to review the programme of events offered.

After due consideration and debate, the Committee decided to hold one landmark event each year with Club Day, Summer Drinks and the Triennial Dinner being held in rotation, enabling Marlburians to enjoy one large social event each year alongside the programme of reunions, Professional group events and Marlburian Monday talks. Last year (2021) was Club Day, this year (2022) was the Dinner, next year (2023) is the Summer Drinks at the House of Commons and the following year (2024) will be Club Day (along with the in-person AGM) again. The Festival of Sport will continue to be held annually, giving everyone the opportunity to visit the College once a year if they wish to. Other opportunities to return to the College, such as College concerts and art exhibitions will be highlighted

Thus, there will be a landmark event along with the Christmas Carols in London each year for all OMs and several smaller events which are targeted to the various types of OM in our membership.

She noted that the roles of the President and Chair were revised to support the work that each undertakes on behalf of the Club. The Club President is the figurehead of the Club and someone who embodies the values of the Marlburian Club. Their activities support

the work of the Club Committee to inspire other Old Marlburians to value their connection to the Club, the wider Marlburian Community and College and to ensure that all members benefit from the services offered by the Club.

The Chair holds office for three years and may be re-elected for a second three-year term by members at the AGM. The Chair's role is to work closely with the Development team and the College to maximize the benefits of the Club for its members and the wider Marlburian Community, always ensuring that the Club remains a guardian of the College's traditional ethos. The Chair directs the affairs of the Club and would typically attend Club functions when required. The Chair will be someone who has previously spent time on the Committee, so they are familiar with the work of the Committee, volunteers and the Development Office.

It had been good to re-start in person events the first being the annual Carols last December and other events included the Triennial Dinner at the HAC in March, John Dancy Memorial in June, 25 Year Reunion for the Classes of 1995, 1996, 1997 at the College in June, Class of 2020 and 2021 finally had their leaving celebrations at the College in July, and the Festival of Sport in October. Professional Group Events included Sustainable Finance, Not for Profit, Solar Innovations Forum and Marlburian Mondays by Diana Fox Carney (SU 1981 – 83), Peter Martell (LI 1992 – 97) and Lebbey Eyers (C2 1987 – 89).

Sports Clubs are doing well with the Malones winning 4 from 4 this year, the Blues cricket team had a good season, OMSA did well at the Arrow Trophy earlier this month gaining first place across the Fairview fleet of 12 boats, winning the Bobby Reynolds Tankard and secured promotion back into the main Arrow Trophy racing for 2023. The Golf Club held their centenary dinner last Friday at the RAC. KH encouraged any OM, especially younger OMs who have an interest in golf to join the OMSG and keep the Club going for another 100 years.

7. To elect the President Harriett Baldwin nee Egglestone (LI 1975-77). Harriett is the Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire. Before entering Parliament, she had a career in banking and has a particular interest in education and access to all, particularly for girls. NCP proposed her election and was seconded by Catherine Brumwell (NC 1991 – 96)

There being no objections, Harriet was duly elected as President.

Harriett thanked NCP for the introduction and both him and Catherine Stewart for their work as President and Past President. She is proud and honoured to be elected President of the Marlburian Club. She had no thought of a career in Politics whilst at Marlborough but hopes to be able to open up the world of politics to both current pupils and younger OMs and inspire them to get involved. As recent events have shown politics can be divisive but what unites all OMs is the education received at Marlborough. Throughout her life, she has promoted and encouraged the idea that every child, no matter where, receives a good education. She looks forward to helping support the Bursary scheme so the Marlborough education can be opened up to more pupils who would not otherwise be able to attend the College.

8. To nominate the President for 2023 – 2024, Christopher Carpmael (C1 1980 - 84) – NCP nominated Chris who was Chair of the Marlburian Club between 2014 and 2020

and instrumental in the development of the Professional Groups. Chris thanked the AGM for electing him President for 2023 -24, NCP for his hard work during his year as President and good luck to HB. Having been Chair for six years he had a good overview of the Club's activities but would make sure to work alongside HB so the handover next year would be as seamless as possible. The nomination was seconded by Karen Hill and there being no objections Chris was duly elected as President elect.

9. To elect new Committee Members – The Chair introduced:
Edward Gregg (C2 1988 – 93)
Naomi Kerbel (NC 1993 – 98)
Emma James (EL 2009 – 14)

The election to the Committee for all three was proposed by Miranda Wells and seconded by Imran Tayabali. There being no objections, all three were duly elected.

The Chair thanked the departing members of the Committee
Jeremy Cohen (BH 1986 – 90)
Greg Caterer (CO 2000 – 06)
Pippa Blunden (PR 2010 – 12)
Miranda Wells (B3 1987 – 89)

10. Outgoing President's Comments. NCP thanked Catherine Stewart for the huge amount of work that she has undertaken on behalf of the Club during her time on the Committee, all those on the Club Committee and in the Development Office. It had been a privilege to have worked with everyone. The Club has the benefit of Karen Hill for another year and is in good hands for the roll out of the programme to provide OMs with a forum for advice, support and fun. He thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

11. Any other Business

Questions were raised about the drop off in Club Day attendance by Phillip Matthews (B3 1961 – 65) and Robin Brodhurst, Philip also asked to what extent younger members were involved with the Club.

NCP noted that in the two years he had been working with the Committee a huge amount of work had taken place to reach out to all elements of the OM Community. There are currently around 15K Club Members of which 12K can be contacted which is an impressive percentage. The Club is making a huge effort to stay in touch with all Club members and encourage younger OMs to attend events and engage with Club activities.

KH noted research within our membership showed that year group reunions and professional networking events are most highly valued and Club Days was not a popular event to attend. This combined with the lower numbers in recent years gave to the re-evaluation of where we target resources and give people what they want. We listened and that's how the decision was made.

Robin Brodhurst noted that he found the online AGM profoundly unsatisfactory, effectively only hearing from the President and Chair. So much benefit is gained by a face to face meeting and asked for a return to this.

- Francis Moore (C3 1970 – 74) countered Robin by saying that online events help those disabled or unable to travel to events.
- Tim Tennant (C3 1968 – 73) agreed that a face-to-face AGM should be reinstated and the voting system during the AGM clarified.
- James Greenham (SU 1981 - 85) said Zoom meetings are rarely better than face-to-face, but sometimes they are easier to attend especially if you have other commitments which might get in the way of taking the time to attend in person. Perhaps we could have a mix.
- George Browning (B2 1963 – 66) thought the idea of one in person AGM at Club Day and the others virtually was good

The Chair informed the AGM that another reason for an online AGM is that it had been a struggle to get a quorum for the AGM at the College, there is a much higher turn-out online. The Committee would take everyone's comments into consideration. Tim Tennant asked what the quorum was and was informed it is 30. There would still be an in-person AGM every three years at the triennial Club Day.

Robin noted the high quality of the OM Club Magazine which was among the best of all alumni publications. This was endorsed by Mayo Patel and Robert Chase. KH apologised to Catherine Brumwell, the editor, for the omission of mentioning the magazine and noted that the survey showed that the magazine was the number one asset valued by all Club Members.

Steven Bishop asked if Imran thought it appropriate to name the OM who was kind enough to remember MCCF in his will. IT responded that it was David Hern (B3 1939-1943) and that the Trust had been very grateful for this unexpected legacy.

The Chair asked if there was any other business, there being none offered thanks to all the Committee Members, thanked everyone who had attended and for all the input and discussion which was very welcome along with any challenges, which are always healthy to have within an organisation and noted that this concluded that AGM part of the evening.