

OLD BUCKWELLIANS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 25TH MAY 2023

The meeting was held via Zoom. 38 members were present.

1. Introduction

The Chairman (CR) introduced the meeting. The President (TL) thanked the committee for continuing the association and publishing newsletters.

2. Items arising from minutes of 2022 AGM

CR summarised the main points from the 2022 draft minutes and it was noted that one member had requested moving the Dinner to Thursday (which has been done). There were no other matters arising. The minutes were accepted as final.

3. Secretary's Report

GF reported on the mailing data from the first three digital editions of OB News, summarised in the chart below:

E-NEWS MAILING - DATA SUMMARY							
SUCCESSFUL							
DATE	RECIPIENTS	DELIVERIES	OPENED		CLICKED	UNSUBSCRIBED	
January 2022	1932	1911	1342	70%	580	4	
July 2022	1898	1880	1305	69%	415	0	
January 2023	1888	1857	1157	62%	495	1	

He said that while the number of “successful deliveries” (which excludes any emails that have bounced) was quite satisfactory, this did not guarantee that the content was being read, or even that the emails were opened. In response to a comment from a member he confirmed that there was a danger that some of the messages (counted as “successful deliveries”) were also landing in spam/junk folders and that this was very difficult to monitor or control.

The opening rate of the messages was also fairly satisfactory, but even this doesn't guarantee that the content is being read. The number of “clicks” is quite a good indicator, however.

There is plenty of scope to increase the readership. One particular challenge is maintaining up to date records of email addresses. There are still plenty of members whose email address is not on the mailing list or the email is no longer functioning.

GF appealed to active members to help in this by making sure their own personal contacts in the network of Old Bucks have given him their current email.

Finally, GF confirmed that he had plenty of material lined up for the next edition, to appear in July. He would still be happy to receive more news and updates, including contributions to “Confessions Corner” (eg misdemeanours at school that remained undiscovered).

4. Treasurer's Report

AH presented the draft accounts for 2022 to the meeting and ran through the main points. Now that the printing and postage was no longer happening for OB News there were no significant items of expenditure given that the aim was to keep the Annual Dinners cost neutral.

There were still a fair number of annual subscriptions coming in even though we had announced the end of subscriptions in 2021. This was due to the fact that members had not cancelled standing orders.

The draft accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Chairman's Report

CR said it was pleasing to see so many from different year groups at the AGM. He thanked the President for his ongoing support and encouragement, and thanked GF and AH for their work on behalf of the OBA. He had been pleased to note that the documentary had been viewed more than 3,200 times. We had successfully handed over the JHT Putter to the Royal Mid Surrey Club and we were confident that they would be a suitable resting place for what had been such an important feature of the OBA's history. CR asked Nigel Travis to make some comments about the recent success of Leyton Orient and Nigel gave a brief account of the season just finished and his hopes for the coming season. CR also commented about the fact that the school grounds were now due to be re-developed and he hoped it would be possible to secure any artefacts such as the honours boards and find a suitable home for them.

6. Annual Dinner

CR confirmed that the annual dinner would be at Leyton Orient on Thursday 21st September 2023 and that information about booking would be in the July edition of OB News. It was hoped that Richie Wellens would be the after-dinner speaker, but this is subject to his availability. Also, it was noted that there remains a small chance that a fixture for the Os on that evening could mean we may need a Plan B. This will become clear when the fixture list is announced at the end of June.

7. Golf Day

CR said that it was hoped to hold the annual golf competition at Royal Mid Surrey in August. However, the price of the event could be prohibitively high for members, so he was in discussion with RMS to see whether this could be lowered. An alternative would be to return to Theydon Bois GC and information would be given to the regular golf players as soon as possible.

8. Election of Officers

CR reported that all three committee members had indicated they were willing to continue in post (himself as Chair, Adrian Hull as Treasurer, GF as Secretary). All were unanimously elected unopposed.

9. Meeting Places

GF introduced this item by saying that although the reduction in active members was inevitable, he was convinced there were ways to slow the rate of decline. One idea was to promote online meetings. While they were clearly inferior to the normal face

to face reunions, they could be a preliminary to a proper reunion for some participants. It would be simple to set up such meetings and just required someone to offer to be an organiser for a year or class group and then contact GF. He would spread the idea via email and ask anyone interested to connect with the organiser. These meetings could result in more Old Bucks joining the mailing list. He asked anyone willing to set up a new Zoom reunion to contact him.

10. The New School Library

GF said that he was hoping to make the back numbers of OB News fully searchable. To do this he needed some help from someone who is familiar with web authoring.

11. University Shields

GF reported that he had been starting to declutter his office and dispose of bulky items of memorabilia. He still held more than 50 of the college and university shields that used to be displayed in the BHCHS assembly hall. More information would be given in the next edition of OB News but the plan was to allow former pupils to have one of these if it was from the college/university they attended. There would be a limited time to claim, after which the remainder would be auctioned on Ebay and the proceeds donated to charity. There was a discussion about other options for dealing with these but it did not appear that any were workable.

12. AOB

There were no other items raised and the meeting closed at 8.10pm