

THE OLD BUCKWELLIANS ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the organisation shall be 'The Old Buckwellians Association'.

2. AIMS

The aims of the Association shall be to contact former pupils of Buckhurst Hill County High School, Roding Lane, Chigwell, Essex, to encourage membership of the Association, and to foster and promote camaraderie within that membership.

3. HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Association shall be at the address of the Secretary.

4. ADMINISTRATION

(i) A Committee consisting of Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall administer all affairs of the Association, and a minimum of two meetings of that Committee shall take place each year. One or more further members may be co-opted by the Committee as the need may arise.

(ii) The Committee is encouraged to find prudent uses for the Association's funds for so long as these appear ample for its continuing and future operational requirements.

(iii) Disbursements of the Association's funds, which shall be subject to the terms and spirit of this Constitution, shall be authorised by the Treasurer and one other Committee member. Any single disbursement of £5,000 or more, or 20% or more of the Association's total available funds, whichever is the greater, must first be ratified by members at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all former pupils and staff of the School. Any applications for membership from other parties will be considered by the Committee. Only members paying the specified annual subscription will be entitled to the full range of member benefits and activities.

6. PRESIDENT

A President, who shall be a member of the Association, may be appointed by the members in General Meeting on a straight majority vote

following nomination made through the Committee. The appointment shall be for a fixed term of no more than five years, but this shall not limit subsequent election for a further term or terms.

Honorary Vice Presidencies may also be awarded in deserving cases by Members in General Meeting on a straight majority vote following nominations made through the Committee.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription shall be determined by the committee. The level of subscriptions shall be fixed as being sufficient to cover the expenses of running the Association, tracing former pupils, maintaining the web site, and publishing the newsletter. Subscriptions shall be paid annually unless otherwise decided by the Committee.

8. CONTRACTS

Committee members have authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the association (subject to 4 (iii)). Contracts of £500 or more in value must be approved by the Committee as a whole in advance. Non committee members may enter into contracts on behalf of the association only with the express permission of the Committee.

Members of Committee (and any other member taking action with the specific approval of the Committee) are entitled to an indemnity from the funds of the club in relation to any claim, contractual or otherwise, brought against such members as a result of the proper exercise of their duties.

9. MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Unless otherwise agreed by the Committee, activities of members which are undertaken in the Association's name shall normally be self-financing, especially when they are outside the sphere and responsibility of the Association's normal activities. Every effort must be made to ensure that, as a result of members' activities, the name of the Association is not brought into disrepute, nor is any action taken which might render the Association vulnerable to legal proceedings.

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10. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Such a meeting shall be held within 28 days of the receipt by the Secretary in writing, of a request for such a meeting, signed by 25 or more of the paid up members. The agenda for such a meeting shall be limited to the business laid out in the request. Only paid up members shall be entitled to vote, in person.

11. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This shall be held no later than May each year to receive reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. A statement of the Association's finances for, and as at the end of, the previous year to 31 December, will be presented by the Treasurer, this having been independently audited by a suitable person selected by the Treasurer. Election of officers as in Section 4 shall be held. Only paid up members shall be entitled to vote, in person. Other business at the AGM shall be at the discretion of the Chairman, but shall include any formal motion received by the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting, and signed by the proposer and seconder.

12. CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Amendments to the Constitution shall only be made at an AGM or EGM on a straight majority vote of paying members present.

13. DISSOLUTION

Since Buckhurst Hill County High School closed in 1989, the Association's function and life span is inevitably limited. This clause to the Constitution is to deal with that demise. When the number of paid up members falls below fifty, the Committee shall call an EGM to be held at a venue in, or in the vicinity of, Buckhurst Hill. Thirty days notice shall be given and members may either attend in person or record a postal or email vote. The vote will be to give the Committee the authority to dissolve the association and to dispose of net funds and transferable assets -- to be divided into three equal portions and donated to three nationally recognised charities (as below).

If there is not a majority vote for such action, then the funds and assets shall remain under the Association's jurisdiction until the membership falls below twenty-five members.

At this point the Committee shall dissolve the association, choose three nationally recognised charities and transfer remaining net funds and transferable assets to the custody of a solicitor in the Buckhurst Hill, Chigwell, or Loughton areas, with instructions to divide, after deduction of a reasonable fee, all remaining funds and assets into three equal parts for the benefit of those three charities. The Committee will consult and take into account the views of the members before taking the decision regarding choice of charities.

No individual member shall be entitled to any part of the residual assets of the Association, and the Committee's decision in all matters concerning the dissolution of the Association shall be final.

14. CONSTITUTION VERSION

This Constitution was approved by majority vote of paying members present at the AGM on February 9th 2010, and replaces all previous versions.