

**ELIZABETHAN CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held in the Camden Room, Westminster School, Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3PB
On Thursday, 19th September 2013 at 6.00 pm**

In the absence of the President the Chairman took the chair.

1. The Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting were approved.
2. The Chairman gave an overview of the Annual Report. He requested that a vote of thanks be made to the Dean and the Head Master for 'Old Westminsters at Home' in July. The high number of 'no-shows' at this event was mentioned (approx. 1/3 registered OWW did not attend) and it was agreed that the committee should look to address this issue if the event were held again in future.

Artin Basirov, the Hon Treasurer, circulated copies of the unaudited accounts. The Chairman requested that, in light of increased subscription costs and the increase in funds held in the Club accounts, the committee approve a new online accounting system which would allow the Treasurer to work more efficiently and publish the accounts ahead of the AGM in future. He suggested that this would cost in the region of £1000 in the first year and £500 each subsequent year. He agreed to obtain some quotes for this software and present these for approval at the next committee meeting. It was reported that the Club would change its financial year-end to 31st July to be in-line with the School.

The Chairman recorded his thanks to Michael Latham, the retiring Honorary Auditor, and said that in future a professional firm would be appointed in his place due to the increase in subscriptions and funds held by the Club over recent years.

The Hon Treasurer highlighted the increase in investment income. He also commented on some discrepancies within the accounts which he would seek to rectify, namely the cost of the *Elizabethan Newsletter* and the Elizabethan Club Dinner. He noted the high cost of the Ben Jonson Drinks and the subsidy afforded to some OW sports clubs.

Michael Baughan asked why the Club was looking to build up its capital. The Chairman responded that the Club rules stated that 20% of subscription income should be invested in the capital and that the Club was keen to ensure it had sufficient funds to be able to subsidise events and make quality purchases (e.g. a rowing boat purchased for the ECBC for a total of £11,000). Zara Carey mentioned that the committee had also considered an arts bursary for an OW who was looking to pursue a career in the creative industries. Michael Baughan commented that he was concerned that parents might question the annual increase in the Club's subscription fees if the net income was not being spent each year, let alone the dividends. The Chairman stated that the subscriptions increased in-line with School fees.

3. The Chairman stated that the President did not need to be re-elected this year.

4. The Club rules were reviewed and the following changes were agreed:
 - Point 9, final sentence (“Appeal Procedure”) to be deleted
 - Point 12, second sentence to be changed to read, “The President shall be elected for a period of up to five years, renewable once.”
 - Point 12, third sentence to be changed to read, “The Vice-Presidents shall be elected for ten years.”
 - Point 12, fourth sentence to be changed to read, “The Chairman of the Committee will serve for a period of five years (and shall not be available for re-election).”
 - Point 12, the start of the fifth sentence to be changed to read, “The Treasurer, Secretary and Secretary of the Sport Committee...”
 - Point 14C to be changed to “The Secretary of the Sports Committee”
 - Add 14D “A ‘Young OW Rep’ who has left the School within the five years preceding the date of such meeting to be elected for one year only.”
 - Point 30, final sentence changed to read, “The quorum of a General Meeting shall be five.”

Proposed: Tim Brocklebank-Fowler, Seconded: Jessica Chichester

The Chairman proposed that all members of the committee be re-elected with the exception of Caroline Lewis, Darius Norell, Graham Walker and Zara Carey. Charlotte Seymour was proposed as the new Young OW Representative. The Chairman also proposed that Jonathan Carey and David Roy both be elected to the position of Vice-President.

Tim Brocklebank-Fowler was re-elected as Chair, Artin Basirov was re-elected as Hon Treasurer and Nick Brown was re-elected as Hon Secretary. The following were re-elected members of the committee: Tarun Mathur, Matthew Webb, James Kershen and Gavin Griffiths with Jessica Chichester re-elected as Secretary of the Sports Committee and Charlotte Seymour elected as the Young OW Representative.

Proposed: Tim Brocklebank-Fowler, Seconded: Artin Basirov

It was noted that an Honorary Auditor did not need to be elected.

5. It was suggested that, in future, the Club might consider offering some drinks at the AGM and publicise it more heavily to members to encourage higher attendance. This was unanimously approved.

Tim Woods asked if the Club would be organising an event to mark the Head Master’s retirement. The Chairman confirmed that a dinner would be held on 15th January 2014 and it was unanimously agreed that all those who had served on the committee during the current Head Master’s tenure should be invited.

A vote of thanks was made to Caroline Lewis and Zara Carey and all retiring committee members for their work.