

Minutes of an OBC Committee Meeting held on Friday 26th January 2024 in the Cooper Lounge, Expanse Hotel, Bridlington, starting at 7:30 pm

Circulation:

Officers & Committee:

BC Back; MA Barmby; JC Blythe; LN Dealtry; PJV Elliott; M Eveleigh; JR Ezard; A Fumagalli; PM Gibson; SJ Green; K Parker-Randall; S Shilladay; IR Watson; DT Wilkinson; TH Wright
Branch Secretaries: TM Astle; LA Moreland

Past Presidents: AE Calvert; D Evans; TR Kench; A Sugdon; ME Wilson; JF Wresdell

Investment Signatories: DJ Burnett; PW Thompson

Attendance:

JC Blythe; LN Dealtry; PJV Elliott; JR Ezard; A Fumagalli; PM Gibson; SJ Green; S Shilladay; IR Watson; DT Wilkinson; TH Wright; JF Wresdell

1. Apologies: BC Back; MA Barmby; M Eveleigh; TM Astle; LA Moreland; AE Calvert; TR Kench; A Sugdon; ME Wilson; PW Thompson Absent: K Parker-Randall

New member Liam Dealtry was welcomed by the Committee.

A short silence was observed in memory of the following OBs who have died since the current issue of *OB* went to press:

Anthony Valentine Barron (65-71)
Antony Boothroyd (46-54)
Stephen Douglas-Hogg (70-77)
Nicholas Vary Earnshaw (71-79)
Peter James Heald (55-60)
Ian Philip Hutchinson (72-77)
David John Lambourne (Staff 67-73)
Colin Stuart Mather (47-54)
Peter William Wastling (61-68)
John Michael Yelland (48-53)

2. Election of Chairman for 2024

MEv proposed to stand as Chairman for the current year, on the condition that his role in the office was confined to Committee meetings and the AGM only. His proposal was seconded by **LND** and passed unanimously.

3. Matters arising from AGM on 2nd December 2023

There were no matters arising from the AGM on 2nd December 2023.

4. Minutes of last Committee Meeting on 8th September 2023

Having been circulated, these were taken as read, then approved and signed following a proposition from **SSh** seconded by **JCB**.

5. Matters arising from meeting on 8th September 2023

(a) Updates on the future of the Sheffield and North West Branches: **DEv** will be sending a questionnaire to all those on the North West Branch mailing list and other OBs in the North West area to find what type of function they would prefer. There will be a further report at the next Committee meeting.

For information about the Sheffield Branch, see Section 8 below.

(b) Photography of School building/teams: **SJG** reported that some photographs of School buildings have already been taken. These include both older and newer parts of the School and will be placed on Facebook and submitted to the Magazine Editor for possible inclusion in the next edition. Photography of CCF and sports teams has been deferred until better weather. It was reported that THW has a drone for taking aerial photographs.

(c) Club trophies and medals: **SJG** reported that she has located a number of trophies which she has photographed and prepared an inventory of. One of these is an OB cup, belonging to the North West Branch, and the rest are School cups and trophies. They will all be housed in the Archives Room. It is hoped to have some out on display at the Spring Reunion.

Thanks were expressed to SJG for the work that she has done.

(d) Archives access: **SSh** reported that access to the Archives has become easier since the appointment of the new Head's PA, Amy Orley, and with the helpful assistance of SJG and THW. She remarked that PJVE had visited the School and met with Amy that afternoon. The Club now possesses a full set of OB Magazines from 1965 to the present day. A number of duplicates exist and these will be made available at the Spring Reunion for members to take as required. Photographs from the Archive will be submitted regularly to MAB and DTW for posting on Facebook.

6. Correspondence

The Secretary reported that there had been no formal written correspondence since the last meeting.

7. Main Agenda Items

(a) President's Remarks

The President welcomed Liam Dealtry to the Committee.

The President commented on the excellent meal served at the Annual Dinner, with especial praise for the pork. He noted that since taking office he had attended a packed School Carol Service at the Priory, praising in particular the Choir and Gospel Singers.

He then stated that during his year in office he intends to focus on increasing the Club's membership. To recruit more young members, he plans along with the President Elect to prepare a document about the Club for leavers in Years 11 and 13, either to be given out at School or sent to their homes; **THW** offered to assist with this. He also plans, in conjunction with **SSh** and **SJG**, to make more use of Facebook to post information and photographs. **SJG** suggested that in addition to Facebook the Club might consider using Instagram, which is the platform preferred by most young people, and the matter will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

(b) Treasurer's Report

The accounts summary provided by the Treasurer was circulated. This showed a combined balance on the General and Subscriptions Accounts and the Savings Account of £23,303.82 at 21st January 2024. In addition, Investment Funds currently stand at £42,708.70, making a grand total of £66,012.52. It was agreed that this is a sound position for the Club to be in. The Treasurer noted that, encouragingly, income from subscriptions this year exceeded last year's.

He then proposed that if there is no movement on the North West or Sheffield Branch accounts by the end of October 2024, their funds should be transferred to the General Account. This was seconded by **LND** and approved unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for producing another clear and accurate financial summary.

An update on Investments followed and a document, prepared by **PWT**, was circulated. This showed the breakdown of the assets between the four fund managers. On behalf of the Investment Signatories, **PMG** proposed that the smallest of these, £2622.42 held with AXA, should be sold, and this was seconded by **LND** and approved unanimously. It was further mentioned that the Investment Signatories' aim is to have all the assets in a range of funds under the control of a single fund manager. This will be an agenda item at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee thanked PWT for the very hard work he continues to do in consolidating the Club's investments.

(c) Magazine Editor's Report

PJVE reported that in late Spring he will be sending a mailshot (via Mailchimp) to Club members soliciting articles and advertising for the next issue of the Magazine.

(d) Review of the Annual Reunion weekend

Informal Gathering at the Marine Bar

It was observed that this event would be more popular if more present and former School staff were to attend.

JFW and Neil Kitching plan to arrange a reunion of the 1964 cohort at this year's event.

Chess Tournament

DEv and Andy Tiernan were thanked for organising the Tournament.

SJG announced that Andy Tiernan, who has assisted with the organisation of the tournament for many years, is leaving the School at Easter. She will enquire if anyone at School will be interested in taking over his role. The Secretary will send Andy a letter of thanks and, at the suggestion of **DTW**, it was agreed to invite him as a guest to this year's Annual Dinner.

Tour of the School and Act of Remembrance

Both events were popular and well-received.

Thanks were expressed to Sarah Knight for leading the School Tour and to **MAB** for conducting the Act of Remembrance.

Refreshments

Thanks were expressed to Sarah Knight and Claire Lister-Stafford for the serving of refreshments prior to the AGM.

Annual Dinner

The general opinion of those at the meeting was that the meal had been of good quality, and that serving pork at the main course in place of the customary beef had been a success. All agreed that the food service and timings had been good. However, bar service had sometimes been slow, especially for the pre-ordering of wines for table. Also, it was noted that some of the tables had place settings set uncomfortably close together.

It was considered that all speeches had been of satisfactory length, that the PA system had functioned adequately, and that the composition, singing and accompaniment of *Now No More* had all been excellent.

It was agreed that to facilitate the serving of coffee after the meal, a suitable interval should in future be left between the clearing away of dessert and the Loyal Toast.

It was also agreed to ask the Expanse to provide more bar staff, especially early in the evening when table wines are being ordered, and to lengthen tables where necessary to ensure that place settings are adequately far apart.

It was announced that TRK has kindly agreed to act as Toastmaster at this year's dinner, in place of DTW who will be installed as president that night.

PMG then suggested that for the next few years the price of the Annual Dinner be capped at £30, with the Club funding the shortfall. He further suggested that, for an experimental two-year period, current School staff be charged at half-price, £15. Following discussion, **PMG** then made a formal proposal that this year the price of the dinner be capped at £30 and current staff charged £15, which was seconded by **DTW** and passed unanimously.

It was also agreed that current School staff will in future receive personalised email invitations to the Dinner, for which purpose **THW** will provide the Secretary with a list of staff's work email addresses.

(e) Branch Support

DTW proposed to increase the annual branch subsidy to the London and Cambridge Branches this year from £225 to £250. The subsidy is to be used by the branch to cover the costs of the meals of the President, Branch Chairman and, if in attendance, the School Representative, and to pay for the bar for the chain of office and its engraving. The proposal was seconded by **LND** and passed unanimously.

The Secretary will write to the Sheffield and North West branches offering financial support if required.

(f) Positive Action

The Chairman informed the Committee that Positive Action Publications Limited, who have printed and published our Magazine since 2005, went into liquidation last December.

Matthew Baker ("Bacca"), our former contact at the erstwhile company, hopes to use his expertise and contacts to continue to produce the Magazine. **PMG** and **JRE** plan to meet with Bacca to discuss the matter further, and will report back to the next Committee meeting.

(g) Branch Reports

London: Invitations to the reunion on Saturday 17th February have been sent out by Secretary Luke Moreland.

Spring Reunion: This will be on Saturday 6th April, as usual at Bridlington RUFC.

MEv has stood down from the running of the event, and for this year only its administration will be undertaken jointly by **JRE** and **PMG**. Invitations will be sent out at the end of February.

Cambridge: This has been booked at Queens' College for Saturday 20th July. Invitations will be sent to those on the branch mailing list at the beginning of June.

(h) Events Calendar for 2024

Copies of this were circulated. It was noted that the calendar is also available on the Club Website and Facebook.

8. AOB

(a) **MAB** enquired if the Club could fund a plaque to commemorate Flight Sergeant Navigator Edwin Raymond Abell (OB, 22-28) who was killed together with five other crewmen when their plane crashed in Brittany in August 1944. A monument already exists at the site. This will be discussed and a decision taken at the next Committee meeting. **MAB** and Todd Johnson plan to attend the 80th anniversary commemoration in France on 3rd August.

(b) *Following the meeting, the Secretary discovered an email from **TMA**, sent the same afternoon but not opened, giving details of progress with the proposed Sheffield reunion.*

In summary, this said:

A provisional date has been set for Saturday 19th October. The venue, not yet fixed, will be close to the railway station with on-site parking or ample parking close by. It will be an evening event and consist of a hot fork-buffet, possibly accompanied by live music.

Further details will follow at the next Committee meeting.

9. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Friday 5th April 2024** at 7:30 pm in the Cooper Lounge of the Expanse Hotel. This is the evening before the Spring Reunion.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:22 pm.