

Old Persean Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Barry Room 9 May 2007

1. Apologies were received from D Parish, T Plumridge and G Ellison.
2. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted to be a true statement and were duly signed by the president. No matters arose from these minutes.
3. Isabella Eastham was welcomed as new Alumni Officer for the society and school.
4. President's Report: The president looked back at the evolution of the society during his time in office, especially regarding the sorting out of accounts with the help of Roly Owers and Jonathan Green. The production of a 'masterbook' for the presidential role was greatly appreciated as an aid. The departure of Jenny Wallis as Admin Officer was greeted with sadness. Her great knowledge of the school past and present was acknowledged with the presentation of a gift from the society. The expansion of Jenny's role through Sarah Jones and Isabella is expected to continue in future years. The president noted the great number of events he has attended in his role including lunches at the school and in London. He noted the absence of the Stockbridge Cup this year and the need for extra volunteers to take part in this. Tim Plumridge is officially in charge of this. The school's momentous plans were considered, and hoped that the headmaster's successor would be as well disposed towards the plans as Nigel Richardson. Alex Cook's memorial service was announced to the members as being held on the 9 June at 3 pm.
5. Treasurer's Report: Was duly presented to assembled members. The funds of the Society were invested in the Cambridge Building Society passbook account. Questions were raised about the 'library chest'. This is still residing in the school foyer, but given the length of time it had been showing on the Balance Sheet it was not considered necessary to continue accounting for it. The repayment of 'balanced unused' was explained to members. In line with constitution, any unused allocation from the school by the Society is returned to the school at the end of the year. The main call on OP Society funds are to subsidise the annual dinner and other events. David Loades recognised the importance to stay within the annual budget and it was agreed that this process had worked well. The president signed the accounts as being a correct representation.
6. Committee Elections: The president considered that a participation of younger OPs, if at all possible, would be a great credit to the current committee. David Loades and Roly Owers were co-opted onto the committee for current year. It was proposed that the committee thus stands in its current state. This motion was agreed unanimously.

7. Any Other Business: Roly Owers explained the new networking events to be held in London this autumn. Questionnaire replies had allowed a greater understanding of the businesses categories that OPs have gone into since leaving the school. These events are to become a standing item in the events calendar as other schools' alumni calendars have shown.
- The Headmaster discussed his recent alumni trip to the US, mentioning the ten Perseans that attended. The subsequent event in NY should prove to be as successful, if not more so.
 - David Loades updated members on the History he is writing of the school. It is ongoing, having just today received a significant contribution. David expressed his need for greater contributions regarding the school since the 1970s. It will be a single volume's length.
 - Edward Elliott gave an update on the scouts. It now has 75 pupil members with 12 adult helpers, going on trips to the Wye Valley and the Isle of Wight. Given the staff commitment involved, the Explorers/Venture scout group struggles to co-exist with the Scouts on a Friday evening. Thus the Explorers/Venture scout group is to be reorganised into the Perse Young Explorers Club to meet during the Monday Enrichment afternoon rather than the Friday evening slot. The importance of maintaining tradition was recognised. The president asked if this was to replace CCF, but Edward stated this is not the case, the curriculum has simply been broadened to accommodate both. David Loades asked why the Venture scout group had to be deregistered. Edward stated it was because of the popularity of the scout group that met on a Friday evening. The school was to take management duties for this. The school is discussing the Explorer Scout changes with the Scout Association to ensure that The Perse Scouting tradition remains intact.
 - The Headmaster discussed the naming of the Barry Room. This is to be recognised in a small ceremony, where a plaque will be unveiled (together with brief citations of Beryl and Keith, together with a photograph of them). The Governors decided the sports centre should be named the Alex Cook Centre, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to its creation and to the school more generally.