

**Minutes of the meeting of Annual General Meeting of The Cathedralians Society held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at 7.30 pm in Pates Hall at the School.**

**PRESENT:**

Fifteen Members attended: Geoff Williams (Chair), David Baker, Nick Chivers, James Dart, Martin Goodway, Eric Hopton, David Langford, Roger Maggs John Muse, Jimmy Newport, Ron Sims, Sir Hugh Smith-Marriott, George Sutherland, Nigel Sweeting, Peter Templar and The Head (part of Meeting).

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Mark Blackmore, James Cowell, Nick Glead, Chris Matthews, Hugo Pike and Stephen Parsons.

The President, Geoff Williams took the Chair and welcomed members to the meeting.

**2. IN MEMORIAM**

Henry Pyne, a strong supporter of the Cathedralians for many years and David Jewell Headmaster of the School between 1970 and 1979 were remembered by members present who stood in silence for a minute in their memory.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

Copies of the Minutes of the 2005 AGM had been circulated and were approved by the Meeting. Adoption of the minutes were proposed by David Langford, seconded by James Dart and carried unanimously.

Matters arising from the Minutes were as follows:

15. i) The President asked who was responsible for the website as it was out-of-date. Peter Templar advised that no changes could be made unless information comes through. Jimmy Newport and James Dart would work together to ensure that the website was updated.

15. ii) The suggestion that a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form should attend Council meetings would be raised with the Head in the hope that a representative would attend the December meeting of the Council.

15. iv) Commenting on the suggestion that the 2006 AGM should be held before the Prize Giving, the President stated that because notice had to be given in advance it was difficult to make changes in the same year as the events.

**4. HEAD'S ADDRESS**

In her report the Head advised that A Level passes had been the highest ever. 72% at A and B grades with a 100% pass rate. GCSE results were more moderate. An exciting element of the current year is the start of work on the new Lower School Base and Creative Arts Block. This is to be a 62 week project, providing a new music school with recital hall, classroom, composing suite and recording studio, sound proofed music practice rooms and a Learning Resource Centre incorporating additional ICT suite. There will also be new classrooms for the Lower School and English Department, a large play area, enhanced facilities for Learning

Support and a Year 6 classroom. It is expected that the new building will be ready for the 2008+ year six classes.

In the Cathedral, girls had now taken the top line in the Choir alternating with the boys. The girls would be singing in one Choral Evensong per week, thereby reducing the commitment of boys' parents and hopefully leading to improved academic results for the boys.

The Head then outlined the good progress of the four Cathedralians' Scholarship beneficiaries, Christopher O'Donovan (2003), Luke Allison (2004), Hannah Burden (2005) and Jacob Harris (2006). They were she said, all proud to be Cathedralians' scholarship holders and the Head thanked all members of the Society for supporting the scheme.

At this point the President raised the issue of communications between the Society and the School. There had been recent instances where they had fallen down. He cited the late David Jewell's Memorial Service at Haileybury where the details had not come out from the School. The Head said that information had come out from the School to some Council members and that there was no intention not to give full information to Council members. The President regretted that Society members had not been involved in the publicity for the first girl to win a Scholarship. The Head pointed out that at the School administrative function was lean and undertook to remedy shortcomings. The Head invited any member of the Council to phone the School for any information they might require in the future. The President also mentioned that the Society had not received feed-back on any of the Travel Awards granted by the Society. The Head undertook to give the Society contact names for obtaining this information. Following a further point, the Head advised that the invitation to Council Members to Prize Giving should include wives and spouses and that if any further tickets were required then they would be most welcome.

Commenting on the School's coeducational intake, the Head stated that the coeducational intake to years 7 and 8 was very good, 50 girls had come into the School, the highest total ever. The first year intake however was low. The intake to years 9 and 10 was good. Commenting on these variations, the Head concluded that parents may try the State system for the first years of secondary education then switch over to the private sector later on.

The President asked the Head whether the Scholarship Scheme really made a difference by enabling a pupil to attend the School who would not have done so otherwise. The Head confirmed that this was the case.

The issue of whether the Scholarship Fund could achieve charitable status was raised and was noted for discussion at a future date.

The President asked whether there were pupils at School who would benefit from financial assistance from the Cathedralians. The Head confirmed that there were and it was suggested that this concept could be discussed in more detail at a later date.

In answer to a question the Head suggested that the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Lecture time (Friday mornings from 11.50 am to 1.00 pm) as a suitable time for a Cathedralian to address the 6<sup>th</sup> Form. The President then thanked the Head who then left the meeting.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, George Sutherland, circulated the updated accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006. The accounts included details from the 2005 and 2006 Golf Days. Overall, Income for the year exceeded Expenditure by £3798.63. This figure was due to there being no expenditure on the Directory. The Society held £8781.58 in the building society account and

£4000.00 in the Scholarship Appeal Fund and needed to decide how to use the legacy of £1000.00 from Henry Pyne's estate. Forecasting that the Society should break even in the coming year the Treasurer then responded to questions from members. Martin Goodway proposed and Hugh Smith-Marriott seconded the adoption of the accounts and the President thanked the Treasurer for all the work he had done throughout the year. Finally the Treasurer undertook to write a letter of thanks to Michael Scott of Leach and Co for auditing the accounts.

## **6. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary advised that the Future Development Sub-Committee (James Cowell, James Dart and Hugo Pike) would be meeting shortly to discuss proposals.

The Secretary advised that the amended Constitution and Rules, as adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October were now being published in the forthcoming Directory and would be ratified by the membership at the 2007 AGM.

## **7. 25 YEAR MEMBERSHIP SCHEME REPORT**

Nick Chivers presented his report, noting that a meeting had recently been held to review and adopt the accounts. These had been signed off by Mike Scott of F P Leach and Co and a letter of thanks had been sent. Since September 2005 there had been 71 joiners, the highest annual figure recorded so far. Interest on the investments during the year had been 5.72% net of tax, and the income generated and payable to the Society had risen as a result of this and due to the increased capital value of the assets. Because one of the assets which matures in 2008 yields 9% interest, it is unlikely that an investment yielding that rate will be available so the income payable to the Society each year is likely to reduce from 2008/2009 onwards. The objective of the Trustees is to try to balance income maximisation and maintenance of capital and this has been achieved with the value of the assets at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006 being in the region of £174,000. There was sufficient capital to be released to the Society to fully fund up to 7 beneficiaries of the Scholarship Fund and the Society's Treasurer will have to review the likely future availability of funds before the Society commits itself to any scholarships beyond this. Nick Chivers also stated that from 2021 no capital could be released for a further 10 years.

During questions Nick Chivers advised that he and the other Trustees were mindful of the case for charitable status and were looking at that possibility.

## **8. CATHEDRALIANS' SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The President noted that the Head had given the meeting very useful information in her report.

## **10. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Peter Templar circulated his report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. Membership now stood at 1159 made up as follows:

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
Ordinary Members	268	262
Life Members	11	13
Honorary Members	24	22
25 Year Members	840	865
10 Year Members	8	9

Donors	8	7
Total	1159	1176

There were still 123 leavers without addresses, most being in the 25 Year Membership Scheme. Peter Templar had held a meeting with the Head and School Archivist in January. The Directory was about to go to the printers.

Peter advised the meeting that he was giving 12 months' notice of his retirement from a position that he had filled for many years. Members expressed their thanks, noting that Peter would be sadly missed and would be very difficult to replace. It was agreed that Council should consider a successor to Peter at its next meeting.

## **11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Geoffrey Williams commented on the Golf Day which had been a success, attracting lady players and increased numbers. It was the only sporting event sponsored by the Society. Next year's Golf Day would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July and Council members were urged to encourage as many members as possible to attend.

Efforts were being made to set up a Society Cricket Day, a scheme which he hoped would be taken up by the new President. For this to succeed, closer liaison between the School and the Society was essential.

The President reported that he had booked Jury's Hotel for the 2007 Annual Reunion Dinner on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Further details would be forthcoming about car parking and preferential room rates for members.

## **12 CRICKET CLUB REPORT**

In presenting his report Nick Chivers advised that the Club had experienced a bad year. A large number of the team promoted last season did not play. The 1<sup>st</sup> XI had lost all its league games and only recorded its first victory when on tour. It hoped to be strong enough to go into the next season. Only two players were former pupils of the School. The plans for a Cricket Day should include the possibility of playing on a Sunday, when more people would be able to attend. Further planning of this event would be in the hands of the Future Development Sub-Committee.

## **13 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

Simon I'Anson was proposed by James Dart, seconded by John Muse and approved unanimously.

## **14 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR 2005/2006**

Members whose names were listed in Appendix A, with the addition of two 6<sup>th</sup> Form Representatives still to be announced, were elected en bloc. Proposed by Hugh Smith-Marriott, seconded by Ron Sims and carried unanimously.

## **15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- i) Peter Templar suggested that the Minutes of the AGM should be posted on the website as soon as possible. The Secretary undertook to liaise with Jimmy Newport and John Primrose to do this.

- ii) Geoff Williams thanked Eric Hopton for stepping into the role as Chairman “from cold”.
- iii) David Langford stated that the idea of providing finance for poorer pupils should be taken further and this was noted.
- iv) It was noted that Simon Antwis should be invited to attend Council meetings.

There being no further business the President, who had chaired the meeting, thanked everyone for attending and wishing members a safe journey home, closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

**16. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **Monday 4 December 2006 at 7.30 – Memorial Ground – Council Meeting**
- **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 at 7.30 - President’s Event –Post Office Tavern, Westbury-on-Trym**
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at 7.30 – Memorial Ground – Council Meeting**
- **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at 7.30 – Memorial Ground – Council Meeting**
- **Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March –Jury’s Hotel, Bristol - Annual Reunion Dinner**

Signed .....

**Chairman**

Date .....