

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Cathedralians Society held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 7.30pm in Pates Hall.**

**PRESENT:**

16 Members attended : David Baker (Chairman), Nick Chivers, James Dart, Martin Goodway, Brian Hathway, Eric Hopton, David Langford, Richard MacPhail, Hugh Monro (The Head), John Muse, Roger Sharp, Ron Sims, Sir Hugh Smith-Marriott, Peter Templar, Phil Todd and Geoff Williams.

**1. APOLOGIES:**

Neil Andrews, Neil Blundell, Roger Maggs, Stephen Parsons and Hugo Pike.

**2. IN MEMORIAM**

Members Alan Breckon (1946-1953), David Orchard (1934-1940).

Non-Members Richard Allen (1946-1954), Colin Durston (1946-1954), Mervyn Lee (1946-1952), John Pyle (1927-1932), Alan Rich (1949-1956).

The names of those recorded were read out by the Chairman of the meeting and members stood in silence for a minute in their memory.

**3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**

Copies of the Minutes of the 2007 AGM had been circulated and were approved by the meeting. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Martin Goodway, seconded by Geoff Williams and carried unanimously.

**4. HEAD'S ADDRESS**

The Head, Hugh Monro began by saying that the past year had been an extremely busy year in negotiating and preparing the School for its new status as an Academy in the State system from the independent system, adding that the transition was progressing very well. He continued that on the other hand it had also a particularly difficult one as a result of the tragic death of John Bettley the Director of Music, one of the most important posts in the School.

He said that were approximately 250 applications for the first intake for the Academy and 104 of them were chosen as Year 7 pupils.

Other developments were reported:

The Northern half of the new building on the Western side was now in use for teaching of English and Music, while the Southern section would be ready for use by next September.

Pates Hall had been condemned for catering use, therefore as a temporary measure the former music rooms on the South side of the lower quad had been adapted for catering purposes. The Fortune Theatre will be redeveloped as the permanent catering area.

It is planned to move all administration into the old Deanery as part of the four year Development Plan and will release space in the old building for more social areas.

The sports ground at Failand would continue to be used by the School, and a new groundsman had been appointed.

The Principal (Neil Blundell) will be taking over in November following the half term break. He added that some staff had left in July, but a number of excellent new appointments had been made.

The Head concluded that the future of the School was very bright and paid particular tribute to the Chairman of Governors, Steve Parsons who had devoted an immense amount of time, in spite of the heavy responsibilities of his job, in spearheading the negotiations for the survival of the School.

During questions Nick Chivers and Eric Hopton asked whether the sports ground could be used by the Cathedralians' Cricket and Rugby Clubs, (the latter to be reinstated). The Head said that he would be pleased for the ground to be used by the Cathedralians and envisaged that there should be plenty of sporting talent coming along due especially to larger numbers going through the School, and that he would investigate this suggestion.

On behalf of those present the Chairman thanked the Head for a most enlightening report, and especially for all he had done not only for the School, but also in strengthening the links between the School and the Society.

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

The new Treasurer, Roger Sharp, circulated the updated accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008, which had been reviewed and signed off.

Income, £10,100 was slightly down on the previous year by £100. However the Balance carried forward had increased to £18,300 from £12,050 mainly due to £4,000 being released from the Scholarship Appeal Fund, no Directory being printed (£1,500), no Travel Award (£1,000) and there being no presentation or costs of buying T- shirts during the year.

Geoff Williams proposed and Nick Chivers seconded the adoption of the accounts and the President thanked Roger for the tremendous amount of effort he must have given in order to complete and get them verified in time for the AGM, seeing that he had only been appointed Treasurer in June.

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

### **a) Travel Awards**

The Society has not been involved with the process of interviewing for Travel Awards during the last year.

### **b) Website**

The Society's website is now up to date apart from the current President's photograph and message. For reasons unknown, the Website appears not to have been updated until recently with the Chairman or President's letter since 2006.

c) **Future Development Sub-Committee**

Until June 2007 leadership of the sub-committee was in the hands of Hugo Pike from which time it was assumed that the young members of the committee would be able to proceed with their plans for engaging younger members of the Society. However, work commitments and career moves had made it difficult for members of the sub-committee to take on responsibility for events. Members of the sub-committee **were** able to take an active part in the School v Society Cricket Match and barbecue on 6<sup>th</sup> July and to organize a Booze Cruise, similar to the one put on in 2007 on 26<sup>th</sup> August, subsidised by the Society

d) **Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Rules of the Society**

Since Council first became aware of the proposal that the School should seek Academy status, members have been seeking to establish how the new arrangements would affect the Society and its members and how the Society should reflect the impending change of status of the School. One notable example of the changes to be considered is the status of the 25<sup>th</sup> Year membership Scheme and of the allocation of funds accruing from it.

Since the last AGM Council has been addressing the new situation and reacting to information received relating to the changeover. Time has been spent at most of the Council meetings since last October debating the issues involved and discussing changes to the Constitution and Rules of the Society.

Firstly to incorporate the implications of the change of status of the school. There is one obvious change required since the name of the school has changed from Bristol Cathedral School to Bristol Cathedral Choir School. There are more complex changes revolving around the Society's use of funds.

Action to date

The Society's executive committee met in April and June this year. The Society has also received recommendations from the Trustees of the 25-year membership scheme. The Council has discussed the suggested changes to the rules and formal approval by the Council was achieved at the August meeting for some of the rules.

Further suggestions for further changes to the rules have been received since that August meeting. The suggestion has also been received to defer changes to the rules until the full implications of the change of status of the school are known.

Additional areas to resolve

The Society has to resolve whether to grant membership to ex-pupils of the Bristol Cathedral Choir School.

The Society has to manage the running down of the 25 Year Membership Scheme.

The Society has also to work out a way of providing for the part paid-up members of the scheme.

Procedures.

It is hoped to have a full set of rules set out for approval at the AGM in 2009.

It had been hoped to advise the full membership of the changes agreed to date when circulating the society directory with the Cathedralian magazine in December.

Time has not been on our side particularly as further suggestions have been received which need to be discussed by the Council. The changes agreed by the Council cannot be ratified at this AGM because the amendments have not been notified to all the Members 21 days before today's meeting. They have in fact been notified to approximately 450 members by e-mail.

This meeting therefore can debate the propositions and amendments but cannot approve them.

Current rules state that the amendments cannot be approved unless circulated to the full membership of the Society which numbers 1100, 21 days before the AGM or EGM

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

The new Treasurer Martin Goodway presented a report on the Scheme stating the investments are now valued at £125,000 and all of it is now on deposit. He added that tonight, he had handed a cheque for £7,364 to the Society.

Following the resignation of some of the Trustees, three new ones were appointed:- Roger Sharp, James Dart, and Martin Goodway, proposed by Geoff Williams and seconded by Nick Chivers.

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

Eric Hopton reported that the Society had decided not to dispose of the finds, but a decision would be made by the Council as what should be done with them for approval at the 2009 AGM.

## **9. MINUTE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Nothing to report.

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

Peter Templar although resigning from this post at the last AGM had in fact nobly carried on during the year. He circulated his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Membership now stood at 1210 made up :-

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Ordinary Members	251	250
Life Members	11	11
Honorary Members	26	24
25 Year Members	897	876
10 Year Members	18	18
Donors	7	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>1186</b>

Peter told the meeting that there are 184 members for whom the Society has no current address.

He also informed the meeting that he continued to experience difficulties in keeping the records up to date, these being given in detail in his report.

Finally, he said that the Directory for 2008 is at the printers, based on the latest information available up to 31st August this year.

The President thanked Peter for his excellent report, also for all the work which he and Jimmy Newport had once again done in compiling the new Directory.

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

It's been the custom over several years for the President to meet young leavers just after Christmas and to share a drink with them in a relaxed environment. This took place at the White Lion bar of the Clifton Rocks Hotel and about 40 people turned up. The major event of the Society's calendar is the Annual Reunion Dinner, which was again held at Jury's Hotel, Prince Street, Bristol on 28<sup>th</sup> March. 118 Cathedralians and guests attended and Nick Gleed presided over an excellent evening. Guests included the Presidents of the Old Elizabethans, Old Bristolians and Old Colstonians Societies, the Dean of Bristol and the principal speaker Alistair Jones, musician, composer and Director of Music at the School from 1971 to 1982.

Despite the continuously wet weather the Society succeeded in staging a 25 over cricket match on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Failand between a School XI and a Cathedralians XI. The School batted first and put on 190. After a substantial tea generously put on by the School the Society's XI brought together by James Cowell took time to get started and found he bowling difficult. Rain then brought proceedings to a halt and the Society claimed an honourable draw. With a paying bar and barbecue the event was enjoyed by the fifty or so people who attended.

The Annual Golf Day, usually organised by our Past President Geoff Williams didn't take place this year because the course could not be booked. We all hope that this event will again take place in 2009 and it is expected that it will be held at Henbury Golf Club.

### **a) Events planned for current year**

On the sporting front your Society expects to stage another match between the School and the Society at the end of the Summer Term and a Golf Day in July. The main social event of 2009 is the Annual Reunion Dinner at Jury's Hotel on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We shall be putting out booking forms and other information to members in our mail shot at the end of December comprising The Cathedralian and the new edition of the Society Directory. It is hoped that we shall again hold a School v Cathedralians 25 over Cricket Match, probably after the end of the Summer Term. The Society expects to continue to support events intended to cater for the younger members of the Society and their friends, which may mean that another Booze Cruise around the Bristol Docks will be arranged. This decision depends on input from the younger members of the Society.

### **b) Long term aims of the society**

The main long term objectives of the Society are firstly to embrace the changes brought about by the changing status of the School, secondly to attract new, young members, paying particular attention to those exiting the 25-year membership scheme. Once the scheme has finished then the Society will focus on those leaving School without the introduction to membership via the 25-year membership scheme. Thirdly the Society must grow its membership and attract young members to take an active part in running the Society

c) **The Incoming President (March 2009) and President Elect (March 2010)**

Finally I would like to commend to you your Incoming President, Martin Goodway who was at School from 1948 to 1955. By profession a Quantity Surveyor and now an active member of the Council and Chairman of the Trustees administering the 25-year Membership Scheme. Regrettably we do not as yet know the identity of the President for the 2010 – 2011 but this is being worked on.

## **12. CRICKET CLUB REPORT**

Nick Chivers reported that the Club was still attempting to field two teams, and that the strength of it was the same as the previous year and with only two Cathedralians playing. However a sixteen year old from the School would be playing next year.

In discussions the Head said that he would ask Martin Bracey to talk to the School to raise the pupils interest in the Cricket Club.

He concluded that he was delighted that the Head would do this and also look into the possibility of the School playing field being used by the Club.

The President thanked Nick for his enthusiasm and for his report.

## **13. HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

It had been suggested by Sir Hugh Smith-Marriott that Alistair Hignell be honoured at the 2009 Annual Reunion Dinner, for his contribution to the School before going to Sherborne School. This was proposed by Eric Hopton and seconded by James Dart.

David Langford agreed to obtain a suitably engraved piece of Bristol Blue Glass to be presented to him.

The President reported that Alistair Hignell had accepted the honour and that Revd Peter Knight had agreed to make the presentation.

## **14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR 2009/2010**

### **Officers**

At the 2007 AGM Peter Templar resigned from the post of Membership Secretary, however he kindly carried on during the current year and without persuasion had now agreed to stand for re-election. Peter was proposed by Jim Newport and seconded by Eric Hopton and his election was carried unanimously.

The President advised that the Society still required a Secretary, but that no one was forthcoming.

A change was suggested for the post of Vice Chairman. Geoff Williams was proposed by Martin Goodway and seconded by David Langford. A ballot was conducted between the existing Vice Chairman, John Muse and Geoff Williams. Geoff Williams was elected.

The President thanked John for all he had done as Vice Chairman and asked if he would be willing to stay on as a member of Council. This he graciously agreed to do

### **Council Members**

The meeting then elected the remaining members of Council, as set out in Appendix A. 6th Form Representatives would be selected in consultation with the Principal.

### **Sub-Committees**

The Dinner and Social Events members were confirmed as the President, David Langford, Richard MacPhail, Hugh Smith-Marrriot and Roger Sharp. The Council would decide the content of other sub-committees.

### **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

There being no further business the President, who had chaired the meeting, thanked the Head for the use of Pates Hall and also thanked everyone for attending and having wished them a safe journey home, closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

### **16. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2008 at 7.30 at School**
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 7.30 pm, President's 6<sup>th</sup> Form Reception**
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 at 7.30pm -at School -Council Meeting**
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at 7.30- at School Council Meeting**
- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March at Jury's Hotel, Bristol – Annual Dinner**
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 -School Commemoration – Bristol Cathedral**

**Signed..... Chairman**

**Date.....**