



OCA AGM 2021 - Minutes

On 19th November 2021, the OCA held their inaugural Annual General Meeting to discuss current affairs at hand and the future of the OCA.

The Travellers Club,
106, Pall Mall,
London, SW1Y 5EP

In attendance

Richard Scully (Chair), Alex Hodgkins (Secretary), James Watkins (Treasurer), Ben Steel, Philip Thompson, Jeremy Barham, Stuart Brown, Sally Williams, Nic Dowler, Tom Belli, St. John Costello, Honey Barras (School Advisor)

Apologies

Will Chuter (Head of School), Malcolm Cox (Dinner Secretary)

New appointments were all reinstated:

Rich Scully - OCA Chairman
James Watkins - OCA Treasurer
Alexander Hodgkins - OCA Secretary
Honey Barras - School Advisor

Undoubtedly, COVID got the initial mention, alongside gratefulness, reflection and cautious optimism that the OCA could meet up again, discuss organising live events and start to re grow the association's true purposes.

As the world fully starts to embrace the digital era, there was large growth in our OCA website, offering many features and engagement for all Old Cranbrookians. Communication is the key, so what/when/why/where/how were all discussed.

2022 will be a better year for many communities & societies, let alone the OCA, so I am personally optimistic for a bright OCA future. See you all at the Spring Sports Reunion, Summer Ball Reunion & November event next year!

Never hesitate get in touch at <https://www.oldcranbrookians.com/AboutUs>.

Have a wonderful Christmas, fellow OCs.
Rich

Apology from Will Chuter, OC, Head of Cranbrook School:

"I am very sorry not to be with you tonight, as I would dearly like to spend the evening in the company of fellow OCs, especially after such a long lay-off. By way of explanation, the first CSPA (Cranbrook's parents' association) social event since the pandemic began has also been scheduled for tonight, and so I am spending the evening with Cranbrook parents, wine-tasting, in the dining hall. This is not a hardship! (Not least because our parents are hugely supportive and continue to do great things for the school.)

I am greatly looking forward to the opportunity of meeting more OCs at the ball at Cranbrook in the summer, and would like to extend an open invitation to you all to visit the school whenever suits you. In fact, I was thrilled to meet an Old Cranbrookian today, who dropped in unexpectedly during a trip over from his home in the US: Hugo Burnham, Horsley 1974 – once drummer in the late 70s political post-punk band Gang of Four and now Professor in the School of Performing and Visual Arts at Endicott College in Massachusetts. Hugo and his wife zipped around the school in the November sunshine before chatting with me fondly about the school band he had with Piers Sellers as vocalist, and about his Housemaster, Peter Allen, who recognised his political zeal and challenged him hard to aim high in his studies. You are very welcome to do the same: it will always be your school, and we will be very happy to see you. Despite the battering it has taken by Covid, Cranbrook and its people are in good shape, and facing the future with a smile. I will soon present to Governors my vision for the next ten years, which I hope that you, too, will approve of: it has growth, development and community at its heart, of which the OCA are a significant part. I hope you all enjoy your evening thoroughly, and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours,

Will"

Minutes:

Item One

- i. Welcome from Richard thanking all for attending, with a special thanks to more seasoned members for their service to the OCA. The committee expressed their thanks to Honey for the superb work done throughout 2020 and 2021 in keeping OCs in touch
- ii. Richard read words to the committee from the new Head of School, Will Chuter

Item Two: Accounts

- i. Philip formally handed responsibility of the accounts to James Watkins. Philip will finalise the 2021 accounts as his final responsibility. He took over the management of the accounts in 1978 with an approximate value of £9k. Accounting for a net of spending and outgoings there has been significant

growth in the value of the assets. Committee expressed their gratitude and thanks to Philip for his significant part in the stewardship of the committee over the decades

- ii. Discussion of the lifetime membership fund. There is no funding from leavers of the school to the OCA. The group discussed a contribution from students on annual basis upon. **It was agreed this would be an action item at the next meeting, and with the school**

Item Three: Events

- i. Discussed dates and potential issues with the Hockey/Netball day in the Spring. The committee thought it prudent to avoid Easter weekend if possible but acknowledged the need to keep the event in term time
- ii. **The committee to liaise with Liz Coleman to support on arranging captains for the day – Sally, James and Rich took responsibility for this.** James informed the group of the OCs Hockey Group on Facebook that is used to corral support and captains each year
- iii. Rugby 7s has been confirmed as a new sport for 2022

Item Four: Dinner

- i. Honey informed the committee of the School Grease Cabaret – there is the option of them performing at the Summer dinner. This was welcomed by the group
- ii. After a discussion it was agreed **Rich will organise a guest speaker** for the dinner and **Honey will organise music**
- iii. The dinner will be in an L-shape marquee this year to separate the dance floor from the formal sit down dinner

Item Five: The Future of the OCA

- i. The group agreed the website is a real strength and thanked Honey again for this. **Honey requested more content from the group and wider contacts in order more can be published on the website**
- ii. **Tom and Honey to discuss further engagement via LinkedIn.** The importance of LinkedIn was agreed, and access to the OCs page will be restricted to just OCs
- iii. The group was reminded of the careers program run by Christine Newman. The OCA agreed to support where possible
- iv. The website can facilitate a mentoring program. **This is to be discussed further and announced at the dinner in the Summer**
- v. **There was a request for a Champion of OC Social Media**
- vi. Nick agreed to support Malcom at the upcoming Summer dinner
- vii. Rich closed the meeting with the outstanding item to agree a date for the winter meeting