



MINUTES

Old Cryptians' Club

Tuesday 13 October 2020 – via Skype

Present

Adam Ashby, President (Chair), Mike Beard, Richard Briggs, Richard Browning, Matt Cass, Nick Dyer, Peter Hobbs, Steve Knibbs, Duncan Miller, School Head Girl - Nadine, School Head Boy - Matvei, Helena Cornish (Secretary).

- The President welcomed Head Boy, Matvei and Head Girl, Nadine to the committee

Apologies

- Steve Mace

Minutes of Meeting held on 12 May 2020

- Minutes as received were accepted

Matters Arising

- none

Headmaster's Report

- Nick Dyer introduced Matvei and Nadine to the committee and invited them to give the committee a brief summary of life at Crypt School with Covid restrictions in place
- Matvei and Nadine commented that despite the current situation moving from working online to being back at school had gone quite well. Students are pleased to be back at school socializing in year groups. Covid safety is good within the school with students wearing masks and socially distancing. If students have to self-isolate at home, they can access Google Meet to keep in contact with teaching staff. Sports take place in year groups, mostly fitness training. The Year 12 and 13 group alternate weekly to use the common room
- The Head reported that summer exam results were quite close to predicted grades – 67% were predicted A* - B. Actual was 70%. Students are encouraged to work towards each assessment and plan for future exams
- There are no sports fixtures, plays or orchestral performances at present
- Due to Covid related issues, c£50k has been spent on signage, IT, Wifi throughout the school, and cleaning costs. Fortunately, reserves have helped to finance extra costs
- The school has received a £1000 legacy for the Bursary Fund from Patrick Lawrence, son of Old Cryptian John Lawrence who died last year
- Plans have been re-submitted for additional classrooms
- Plans for the new on-site primary school have been recommended for approval

Action - Adam (and Bursary trustee) to draft a letter to the family of John Lawrence recognising his generous bequest to the bursary

Nick Dyer left the meeting

Honorary Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer's Report had been circulated before the meeting
- Richard Briggs questioned how long the 'period' was regarding collection of subscriptions totaling £3186
- The Club are only collecting half the subscriptions from membership which averages out at only £12.70pp. A list of members who are not paying subscriptions would be helpful so that the committee can discuss and make a decision on membership in the future
- 29 members are now paying via GoCardless

Action – Adam to ask Rich Brooks, Treasurer to identify those who are not paying a subscription

Action – Richard Briggs and Richard Brooks to have a session to discuss nonpayers

Action – Richard Briggs to present findings to the committee at the next meeting in January

- Richard Briggs informed the committee that 2/3rds of members who do pay are paying £25 and one third are paying £20

Centennial Bursary Fund

- The Centennial Bursary Fund Report had been circulated before the meeting. Richard Browning read out his report to the committee
- Current membership totals 95
- The last head boy, Jamie Evans has not yet taken up his award of £1500 due to Covid

President's Business

- Adam Ashby thanked Duncan Miller and Hannah for all their work on publishing The Cryptian. An online copy has been sent to members via eNews and is also available on the Crypt School website
- For the 46 members not on email – they will be contacted to explain that no hard copies will be available this year due to the Covid pandemic

Action – Adam to co-ordinate mailing 46 members not on email to explain the reason that no hard copies will be available this year

- There will be two online events this year – prizegiving and the remembrance service. Invitations will be sent out via eNews
- Adam Ashby has invited the London Dinner OCs to provide an update of activities but no response as yet
- Adam asked for ideas for an OC online event near Christmas
- Plans for an online AGM 2021 should be considered as it is doubtful the AGM and Annual Dinner will go ahead. The committee has already agreed that the constitution allows for us to hold the meeting online and that we would contact those not on email by post, with details of the annual meeting. AGM preparations will be discussed further at the next meeting in January
- Digitizing the archives is ongoing. Most of the last 10 years of OC minutes are available. Press articles, speeches to be digitized

Membership Report

- Richard Brigg's report was circulated before the meeting
- Membership is increasing slowly. Richard requested some help to contact older members by phone to encourage them to pay their subscription. It is also an opportunity to obtain up to date contact details. It was suggested that 6th formers could help Richard with contacting members by phone

- Duncan Miller gave a demo of a membership database package which could replace the current excel spreadsheets. Duncan is willing to host it for free and link it to subscription payments. Adam Ashby suggested that Richard Briggs, Duncan Miller and Helena Cornish should get together to discuss options

Website and Communications

- Steve Knibbs has spoken to several web designers. The website needs either a refresh or complete update, but it is costly

Action - Steve Knibbs to explore further what packages he could get for £1000 and report back to the committee

Any Other Business

- none

Date of Next Meeting

- Tuesday 19 January 2021 at 6.00pm via Zoom

Committee Actions

President's Business

Action - Adam (and Bursary trustee) to draft a letter to the family of John Lawrence recognising his generous bequest to the bursary

Membership Fees

Action - Adam to ask Rich Brooks, Treasurer to identify those who are not paying a subscription

Action - Richard Briggs and Richard Brooks to have a session to discuss nonpayers

Action - Richard Briggs to present findings to the committee at the next meeting

The Cryptian

Action – Adam to co-ordinate mailing 46 members not on email to explain the reason that no hard copies will be available this year

Website

Action - Steve Knibbs to explore further what packages he could get for £1000 and report back to the committee

Helena Cornish
OCC Secretary
15 October 2020



Centennial OCC Bursary Fund Report

Old Cryptians' Club

Centennial OCC Bursary Fund – October 2020

Despite difficulties which continue to be encountered with the pandemic, some progress has been achieved with the Bursary Fund in the last months.

Since no ceremony could be held at the Crypt school in May, awards were given to 8 students as recommended by school staff and coordinated by Sue Wales. These were distributed by post in June in the following categories:-

Sixth Form Academic	Gabby Kayder, Pralisha Shrestha
Art, Music and Drama	Lachlan Mackenzie, Alice Croom, Ben Mckenzie
Sports	Eva Flitney, Caleb Aldridge
Technology, Engineering	Oliver King

This year it was not possible to consider travel awards.

Bursary Income to date this year has increased significantly by £30,451. Excellent results obtained are largely due to a generous legacy from an elderly Old Cryptian of £25,000. Additional receipts arise from Donations £2,514: Gift Aid from HMRC £2,610 and Interest on assets £327. Expenditure arising from Bursary awards and Bank charges is £2,040. To improve Interest levels, our Treasury has secured better rates by moving assets now sourced at CAFBANK, CAFGOLD and REDWOOD BANK.

It is a considerable pleasure to report that 1539 individual membership to the Bursary Fund has increased by 4 this current year.

R J Browning (Chairman)

Oct 06 2020



Membership Report

Old Cryptians' Club

Membership Report October 2020

Membership figures are tabulated below for five representative dates. The total membership has decreased by 69 in the calendar year to date and now stands at **378**.

	Normal (Subscription)	Life	Associate	Under 21	Total
12 October 2018	232	8	7	138	385
23 January 2019	238	8	7	138	391
13 May 2019	240	9	7	159	415
21 October 2019	246	8	7	161	422
14 January 2020	244	10	7	186	447
13 October 2020	249	10	7	112	378

It is pleasing to note that the number of Normal (Subscription) members is gradually increasing, despite the Club being largely shut down through 2020.

Another "cull" of U21 members is planned for late 2020 so that the members list becomes more realistic prior to collection of subscriptions in early January 2021 (see next section).

The 12 joiners in the reporting period 01/01/2020 to 30/09/2020 are listed below.

Name	Initials	Title	Known as	Class	Dates	Address 4	Joined
Chung	M	Mr	Min	N		Oxfordshire	16/08/2020
Lucas	R	Mr	Rob	N	1976-1980	Gloucestershire	17/01/2020
Mounsor	J	Mr	Jonny	N	2003-2009	London	17/01/2020
Reynolds	K	Ms	Karen	N	2013-2020	Gloucester	14/09/2020
Rose	T	Mr	Tim	N	1976-83	Australia	13/08/2020
Silvester	B	Mr	Ben	U21	2013-20	Gloucester	13/09/2020
Smurthwaite	M	Mr	Max	U21	2015-29	Gloucester	23/08/2020
Townley	J	Mr	Joel	U21	2015 - 19	Gloucester	11/09/2020
Alexander	R	Miss	Rachael	U21	2017-19	Gloucester	11/08/2020
Groves	E	Mr	Edward	U21	2012-19	Glos.	09/07/2020
Hill	D	Mr	Samuel	U21	2012 - 19	Gloucester	11/08/2020

Keveren	J	Mr	Jack	U21	2013-20	Gloucester	16/08/2020
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Recently the School provided a transcribed list of former Y13 pupils who wished to sign up for the U21 offer – just 6 this year. (Last year 25 final year students signed up for this class of membership.) However there are 7 random additions, tabulated above, thus a total 13 in the U21 category for 2020.

Letter to U21 Members (2020)

Another *docmail* posting to (time expired) U21 members is planned for November 2020.

Although this might seem cumbersome, a printed letter offers the best chance of the message reaching the U21 members. The receipt of an email is believed not to have the same impact.

The likely result is that a few will decide to join as full members and begin paying a subscription from 7th January 2021.

Challenges

The membership list continues to be held on an Excel spreadsheet with a controlled distribution. Ideally it should be hosted on a database but the initial expense and ongoing maintenance cost of a commercial package is hard to justify. Much depends on the desire of the Club's management (the Committee) to project a modern image.

Data cleansing of the membership list is not being carried out as a regular and rigorous exercise but rather on an opportunity basis. The volume of checked entries (approximately 64% in the "N" category) is low. Any attempt to raise this percentage must necessarily involve extra resource. Similar to the above, how much value do we place on the perception of the Old Cryptians' Club in terms of efficiency?

Revenue from normal subscription ("N") members is still only about half the expected figure, despite the direct debit system now in place. Another campaign earlier in this Covid-19 year would have seemed to be misplaced in the light of event cancellations. However a robust reminder should be considered as the end of 2020 approaches **IF** there is some prospect of "normal service" being resumed.

Richard Briggs

Membership Secretary

Old Cryptians' Club

RHB/09.10.2020



Treasurer's Report

Old Cryptians' Club

Report to the OCC Committee – 13 October 2020

Accounts as of 13 October 2020

Bank Account

As at 30 September, there is £6,771 in the bank. This is around £1,500 higher than this time last year. This is due to there mainly being a smaller loss due to the annual dinner not going ahead.

Income

Subscriptions received during the period totalled £3,186. This is £202 lower than this time last year.

Our stock sales are down which is again more than likely linked to COVID and there being no annual dinner.

Expenses

Expenses have not been that large during the year. There have been the usual Administration costs for Helena, the normal Website costs, refunds of Annual Dinner Sales, payments to Bursary for those who wanted to donate their annual dinner ticket.

This has all lead to a surplus in the period of around £1,973.

Rich Brooks

OCC Treasurer

13.10.20