

OLD ROEDEANIANS' ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE OLD ROEDEANIANS' ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 28 January 2019 at 6.00 pm,

The Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London SW1X 7DR

43 Old Roedeanians were present. Apologies were received from those ORA members who were unable to attend the AGM.

1. Welcome

Virginia (Ginny) Stephen (de Trense, ORA President, Hse 3, 1954-60) opened the meeting, introduced herself and thanked those ORA members in attendance for coming to the meeting. She referred to the fact that it had been decided to revert to holding the ORA AGM on a separate date from the Governors' AGM in order to allow more time for both. She confirmed that minutes of this meeting would be put on to the ORA page of the School website and that the meeting should not be recorded by anyone in the room to allow members to be able to speak freely.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM

The minutes from the last AGM (19 February 2018) had been circulated by post or email and had been available on the Roedean website. They had also been circulated with the AGM paperwork on 4 January. Their approval was proposed by **Claire Jenkins** (Hse 3, 1973-80) and seconded by **Rosemary Eaton** (Uffen, Hse 1, 1973-81) and were approved by the meeting and then were duly signed off by the President.

3. President's Report

Ginny introduced her fellow ORA committee members and thanked them for their commitment and for their help and support over the past year. She also introduced the four ex officio members of the committee, including the newest member, **Natasha Tan** (Hse 3, 2015-2017), who is now the OR Representative for Malaysia and will be attending the next committee meeting to enable her to decide if she would like to join the committee.

Ginny referred to the ORA's constructive relationship with Roedean and the School Alumnae Office and the fact that this enables the ORA and Roedean to work together in partnership for the benefit of the school.

a. Events. There have been several events during 2018:

- Roedean Day at the School on 23 June
- OR Lunch at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, Knightsbridge on 6 September, kindly hosted by **Jill Edwards** (Parkinson, Hse 3, 1946-53) who is a long-standing member both of the ORA and of the Club.
- Founders' Day Service at the School on 28 September
- Speech Day at the School on 3 November
- A 'meet the committee' Drinks Reception on 22 November
- ORA Christmas Drinks at the "Antelope" on 6 December

Ginny thanked those members of Roedean School staff and Council who had helped to make the School-based events the successes that they were.

Particular highlights of the year had been the opening of the Astro-turf pitch on 28 September, to which the ORA had donated £10,000 to its Pitch Perfect Appeal. As one of the major donors, this gift has been commemorated by a plaque set near the pitch. The donation was greatly appreciated by the School. Speech Day was a special day in the calendar as the 2018 leavers had been able to be given a pack containing their ORA badge and the 2017 OR Magazine. Ginny confirmed that all leavers are now automatically made members of the ORA and that it has been agreed with the School that the ORA may present its badges to new members at Speech Day or at such other event that may be agreed with the ORA. The ORA will be organising a Reception for the 2018 leavers in April.

Ginny explained that the ORA is a member of AROPS which is open to representatives of independent and maintained schools' alumni societies and provides a forum to learn from other societies' experiences and to share ideas. She and **Mary Henderson** (ORA Vice President, Hse 3, 1971-76) attended the annual conference in April and the AGM in October. They hope to attend the 2019 conference in May.

- b. ORA President attending School Council meetings.** Ginny had been invited by Roger Sanders, Chairman of Council, to give a presentation to Councillors before their Council meeting at the school on 19 June about the work and achievements of the ORA. It followed a similar presentation by Mark Taylor on the work of the Alumnae Office. Ginny was able to explain how the ORA operates and also to suggest that by the President attending Council meetings a positive relationship would develop and the ORA would be better able to help the School. Roger is keen to resolve this issue and had invited Ginny to attend the December Council Meeting (although the invitation was subsequently postponed due to Council having to deal with some unprecedented sensitive issues).

- c. Meetings with the Headmaster.** On 14 November Ginny and Mary Henderson met with the Headmaster and Grace Cather (Alumnae Manager) at the School. Roger Sanders joined by telephone. There were two main agenda items:
 - i. The database.** Ginny was pleased to report that the School and the ORA are now actively pursuing agreement as to the ownership of data and how the data-sharing will be implemented. These matters are expected to be resolved by 7 February when Mary and Ginny have a second meeting at the School.

Questions:

Roz Frampton (Hse 1, 1967-71) asked for further information on the data-ownership issue. Mary explained that current discussions were not just regarding ownership, but also about the need for a contractual agreement to be in place. Roz felt strongly that ORs should be receiving

regular updates on discussions as it is their data being discussed, however, Mary clarified that it was not the actual personal data which was being discussed, but rather the processing of the data. The committee is very clear that it needs to safeguard the ORA. The aim is to agree on a Data Processing Agreement but progress is still slow. Once this is in place the membership will be informed. Claire Jenkins commented that discussions have actually come a long way and that she believed that members should trust the committee and wait for them to report back once the Agreement has been concluded. **Helen Jefferies** (Reynolds, Hse 2, 1969-77) clarified that once an Agreement had been reached it would be likely that ORs would be able to opt out if they were not comfortable with it.

- ii. **Leavers' subscriptions.** Ginny explained that the ORA received the last complete payment for leavers in 2016. As regards 2017, after much discussion, the School said it would pay half the sum due with the other half to be paid to the School. To ensure that a precedent wasn't set as regards future payments, the committee decided to record that the whole sum had been received by the ORA, with a subsequent donation of half that sum to the School for 'various projects'.

Going forward the School has agreed that the ORA should continue to be paid £150 per leaver for lifetime membership but, however, the School also considers that part of this sum should be paid to the Alumnae Office for its services to the ORA. The ORA committee feels that any payments made by the ORA should be for identifiable items only and that payment for services in general to the Alumnae Office would be difficult to quantify. There is concern that the relationship could be put at risk when trying to calculate the value of any service.

The solution for the 2018 leavers' subscriptions is still under discussion and options are being considered to ensure the ORA receives the money required to enable it to continue its activities and to support the ORA community. It was pointed out that members of the ORA committee work free of charge to enable all leavers' subscriptions to be allocated to the ORA funds allowing the ORA to assist the School both financially and practically, just as it did in 1939 and last year with its £10,000 donation to the Pitch Perfect Appeal.

This issue is also tabled to be discussed at the second meeting with the Headmaster on 7 February and we look forward to resolving these to the satisfaction of all.

Questions:

Ruth Mills (Hse 3, 1971-78) enquired about Leavers' subscriptions. **Erica Faircloth** (Rhodes, ORA Treasurer, Hse 4, 1958-64) explained how subscriptions used to be collected, and how they should be collected now. **Emma Lewis** (Hse 1, 1978-86) asked how the payment of subscriptions would develop and Ruth asked what the ORA's ultimate goal is. Mary explained that the talks are wide-reaching and the conversation is still ongoing and that Ginny would report on progress after the meeting on 7 February. **Catherine Mayo** (Hse 2, 1979-84) commented that parents receive a great deal of emails already and don't need any additional ones.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Erica Faircloth, presented accounts for the ORA General Fund and for the Old Roedeanians' Scholarship Fund for the year to 31 March 2018.

- a. ORA General Fund:** Claire Jenkins requested that next year's Balance Sheet should clearly show the income from leavers' subscriptions although it was noted that this was shown in the Capital Account. **Vivien Smiley** (Paulson-Ellis, Hse 2, 1988-93) asked for details on the reserve policy as she felt that it was a large amount of money for the ORA to retain. Mary Henderson reminded everyone that, with a lifetime subscription of just £150 per leaver, it was the committee's responsibility to protect the reserves to ensure the continuation of the ORA during the lifetime of all of its members. Erica pointed out that the Pitch Perfect donation and the 2011 Ball costs had been exceptional uses of funds from the reserves.
- b. ORA Scholarship Fund:** Clarification was requested from the floor that the scholarship award was just £1,000 per term. Mary Henderson explained that the trustees were only able to award the income from the Fund. If more donations were received then the Scholarship Fund award would increase.

Approval of the accounts was then proposed by Ruth Mills, seconded by Helen Jeffries and were duly approved by the meeting.

5. The Old Roedeanians' Scholarship Fund Trustees' Report

Emma Smellie (Beauclerk, Hse 4, 1973-81) reported on the OR Scholarship Fund on behalf of the Trustees.

The current OR Scholar is now in year 13, her last year at the School, and is studying French, Chemistry and Music at A level. She is a very well-rounded student and takes an active role in all aspects of the School. She is Deputy Head Girl and balances this role, which requires a high level of commitment to the School community, alongside her academic studies. All of her teachers find her a pleasure to teach and she is a great asset to the School. Her future plans are uncertain at the moment, but she is hoping to study International Relations with French next year, possibly at Edinburgh.

The process of identifying the next ORA scholar has recently been set in motion. Daughters of ORs are always preferred but there are low numbers of these and, additionally, other criteria need to be taken into account.

Last year it was reported that one of the Trustees, **Carola Hickling** (Hse 3, 1964-68), had decided to resign and so for most of 2018 there have been only two Trustees. However, two new Trustees have since been appointed - **Rosemary Eaton** (Uffen, Hse 1, 1973-81) and **Kate Coker** (Hse 4, 1977-79). We are delighted to have them on board and to work with them to help raise the profile of the Fund and to help increase the financial contribution that the Fund can make to the ORA Scholarship.

The Trustees placed on record their thanks to Erica Faircloth for her calmness, wise counsel and immaculate accounts.

6. Magazine Editor's Report

Robyn Crabbe (Blackburn, Hse 1, 1972-77) introduced herself as the Editor of the previous (2017) Old Roedeanians' Magazine and the current (2018) Old Roedeanians' Magazine which is due to be published in April.

She has become aware of some confusion amongst ORs about the difference between The Roedeanian and the OR Magazine. She explained that The Roedeanian is produced and distributed by the Roedean Alumnae Office and that it comes out quarterly.

The OR Magazine is produced by the ORA for ORs and is published annually. It celebrates a year of OR life and is packed with news and photos of OR events, starting with the lunch in September and ending with Summer Reunion at the School. These are supplemented with news from the School – the Headmaster's report and leavers' ball photographs – articles on OR authors and photographers, News of Friends and Births, Marriages and poignant obituaries.

There was general agreement amongst attendees that they had become confused about the difference between the two publications so the explanation was well received.

The committee is committed to making the OR Magazine more accessible to all ORs so it has decided to subsidise the subscription costs in an attempt to raise subscription rates. This will take effect from the 2018 edition and ORs with a current subscription will have their subscription extended to reflect the change in price. The new prices can be seen on the ORA pages of the website at <https://community.roedean.co.uk/news/ora-magazine/119/119-Subscribe-to-the-OR-magazine>.

7. Elections to Membership of the ORA

As per the Constitution of the ORA, all eligible 2018 leavers needed to be formally elected to be ordinary members of the ORA. Their nomination was proposed by Claire Jenkins and seconded by Helen Jeffries and were duly elected by a show of hands.

8. ORA Committee Elections, Resignations and Retirements

Ginny explained that there were no resignations or retirements from the ORA committee. She confirmed that the ORA Constitution stated that ORA members elected ORA members to the committee. The committee itself then elects the ORA's various officers from within the committee's membership.

Mary Henderson took over chairing the meeting at this point.

As per Clause 4.5 of the ORA Constitution, the following officers and committee members had offered themselves for election to the committee at this AGM. All had been proposed by Mary Henderson and seconded by **Gillian Smellie** (Aiken, Hse 1, 1973-81). They were all duly elected en bloc:

- Ginny Stephen (de Trense, Hse 3, 1954-60)
- Erica Faircloth (Rhodes, Hse 4, 1958-64)
- Lois Johnson (Campbell, Hse 3, 1979-86)
- Robyn Crabbe (Blackburn, Hse 1, 1972-77)
- Harriet Scott (Hse 1, 2007-12)

The Trustees of the ORA Scholarship Fund would remain as ex officio members:

- Wendy Challen (Nelson-Griffiths, Hse 4, 1964-72)
- Emma Smellie (Beauclerk, Hse 4, 1973-81)
- Rosemary Eaton (Uffen, Hse 1, 1973-81)
- Kate Coker (Hse 4, 1977-79)

9. Any other business

- a. **ORA Golf. Phoebe Daws** (Hughes, No 3 1971-1973) was unable to be at the AGM but had provided a written report: Our golf day in 2018 was held at the Windlesham Golf Club in mid-March. We were very lucky to have picked a day falling between a very wet period and a rather cold one. Parts of the golf course were very wet indeed, but that did not stop the eight golfers from having a most enjoyable day. This year we played a team event and the winners were **Sarah Waugh** (Hse 4 1969-73) and **Jayne Almond** (Hse 2 1968-1975).

The team comprises:

Lucy Jackson (Kerry, Hse 2, 1967-74)
Wanda Lloyd (Davidson, Hse 4 1951-58)
Phoebe Daws (Hughes, Hse 3 1971-73)
Sarah Waugh (Hse 4 1969-73)
Liz Watson (Pope, Hse 4 1950-56)
Carolyn Aitken (Allen, Hse 2 1955-60)
Vicky Costain (Pope, Hse 4 1953-59)

As always, everyone is very grateful to the ORA for their kind help in supporting this event.

- b. ORA Heritage Projects.** Ginny explained that the ORA is keen to assist the School in the restoration of small identifiable artefacts of historical interest at the School. It is hoped that ORs would themselves be able to suggest such items and would be prepared to contribute to the cost of restoration. The ORA has been very fortunate that **Noelle Chase** (Thompson, Hse 4, 1970-75) wishes to join the Committee to oversee the projects in collaboration with the School. Noelle is a surveyor and is ideally suited to this role. She will be co-opted at the next ORA Committee Meeting in March.
- c. ORA Sailing. Caroline Bowen** (Hse 1, 1991-1998) presented her report on the Arrow Trophy which is an annual yachting event for Old Boys Schools' teams, or, in this case, Old Girls too over a weekend in October in identical Sunsail F40 yachts, racing from Cowes on the Isle of Wight.

The Roedean Old Girls' yachting entrance into the Arrow Trophy this year was supported by a generous donation from the ORA and Roedean School supplied the hats. This was the fourth time an OR team had been entered and once again it was the only girls' school to enter.

Caroline reported that: The weekend started strongly with a "Dark and Stormy" cocktail evening held at the Royal London Yacht Club, when everyone had assembled in Cowes on the Friday evening. Racing the following day was delayed due to Storm Callum's untimely arrival, but it did allow a gentle start to the day with plenty of rest for slightly sore heads. With three races planned for the day, we were keen to make a good start,

and that was exactly what we managed with some excellent manoeuvring from Caroline on the helm. Unfortunately, that proved to be a high point of the weekend... Our second race start was less promising. We had gained a few places due to excellent tactics from Leo, and Anna's herculean efforts winding winches, but a rigging mishap rounding our final mark, meant we were unable to tack for the finish line, and could only watch with despair as boats slipped past us. Thanks to the quick work of the bow team, Daisy and Adrian, and seamless tacking from Jackie and Kealey and smooth gybes from Samir and Mary – we managed to salvage a couple of places, ultimately finishing in 21st, a position we still felt was salvageable.

Saturday evening's social events meant there was barely a moment to reflect on our day's racing, as we spruced ourselves up, donned our glad rags, and headed for a cocktails at the Royal Yacht Squadron, at the kind invitation of the Pangbourne team, with whom we have developed something of a standing arrangement. Highlights included a cider based "boat race" with Stowe (we, of course, won), and becoming reacquainted with old friends.

Sunday began early, with all of us keen to improve on the day before. The weather was atrocious, with unabatingly heavy rain, but luckily the wind was suitable for sailing. So we headed out again, wearing our very fetching matching maroon beanies, kindly supplied by the School, and prepared for the first start of the day. With two minutes to go, we tacked on to starboard (the right of way boat, with the wind coming over our right-hand side), to make our final approach to the start line. And with one minute to go, after frantic yelling, and evasive manoeuvres on our part, our racing ended abruptly with a nasty crunch. We had been hit squarely on the side by a Marlborough team, who were in the wrong according to the racing "rules of the road". After a quick assessment it was clear that we could not continue, as we not only had damage to the gunnel but a large crack along the deck panels. In a seamanlike manner, we lowered our sails, sadly retired from the race and began to motor in. It was a disappointing end to the weekend, but our final position of 22nd out of 27, and with smiles all round, meant we had succeeded in the weekend's objectives. Marlborough did accept full responsibility, which means that this incident will not effect our boat hire or insurance costs this year.

We are by now becoming a well-established team, warmly received at the event, and can build on our experience year on year. As always, we were very excited to welcome three newcomers on board; Mary, currently a Roedean mother and a valuable source of the latest school gossip, and Keeley who joined us from the far reaches of Jersey, both Old Roedeanians, and Karim who kindly stepped in at the last minute as a valuable and experienced Ringer.

If you are interested in participating next year, please do contact us on:
Roedean.alumni.sailing@gmail.com.

We are also looking for supporters of women in sailing who might help us access a yacht for training and/ or additional events.

The 2018 team:

Caroline Bowen (Hse 1, 1991-98)
Leonora Bowen (Hse 4, 1994-2001)
Daisy Alden-Templeman (Hse 2, 2007-14)
Fleur Dilton-Hill (Hse 3, 1997-2000)
Annabelle Daniels (Hse 3 2006-2014)
Jackie Wilson (Hse 1, 1995-2002)
Keeley Harding (Belcher, Hse 1, 1984-87)
Mary Goddard (Scott, Hse 3 1984-89)
Samir Dhanani
Adrian Roberts
Karim El Shawbrawy

Caroline was also able to report that an OR Governor, who wishes to remain anonymous but who wanted to support the ORA sailing ‘in the spirit of Roedean, had been horrified to hear that they were unable to do any pre-race training and has since pledged £500 towards a training day before the big regatta. Caroline said that the team is very grateful for this support.

Ruth Mills said that she has an OR friend with a boat on the Solent and would ask if she might consider lending it occasionally to the team for training.

Jill Edwards commented that she had done a two-day sailing course for novices which she really enjoyed, and she advocated that any ORA members with any interest in sailing should consider doing a similar course. She was sure that this might result in additional support for the OR team.

d. Forthcoming Events

- i. 28 March 2019 – next ORA Committee meeting
- ii. April 2019 – exact date to be confirmed – 2018 Leavers’ Reception
- iii. 22 June 2019 – Roedean Day

e. Questions from the Floor

- i. Jill Edwards asked if the Headmaster would be attending the Governors’ AGM in March. The committee were unsure if he was as they are not involved in the arrangements although the general opinion was that he would be attending.
- ii. Helen Jefferies asked when the next Council meeting was being held. Ginny said that she did not yet know the date but that Roger Sanders is very keen for her to attend.

NOTE: Further meetings with the School have been, and are being, held and the final resolution of these matters will be announced on or before the Governors’ AGM on 11 March.