



OSE Society AGM Minutes

March 2022

David Smart opened the meeting and commented on how fantastic it was to see members dialling in from overseas. DS also clarified to the members that the meeting was being recorded for minute taking.

DS welcomed Alastair Chirnside to the AGM, and paid tribute to the over 500 teaching and support staff at Teddies keeping the School running over the past year. DS praised the dedication of the Teddies staff, as well as the productive year the Beyond Teddies Team had, including a range of events for a variety of OSE. Over 190 OSE were signed up to attend the upcoming reunion.

John Wiggins was unable to attend the meeting as he was unwell with Covid. DS confirmed he had asked Rachael Henshilwood to step in for JW, as she had been working closely with JW to facilitate changes to the Committee Working Party – these changes to be proposed at the meeting in the form of new rules. DS asked that any questions unanswered in the meeting should be put into the chat room, and the Team would get back with an answer in the next couple of days. DS said himself and RH would endeavour to answer as many of these questions as possible during the meeting.

DS referred the attendees to the apologies document circulated previously. DS proposed the minutes of the previous meeting. Chris Nathan and Chris Sprague both second the minutes.

Output of the Working Party

RH explained that the working party came about after a committee meeting where John Bishop asked what the purpose of the Committee was. The following discussion led to the decision that a working party ought to exist which should feed back to the Committee. Two people from each generation have been coming together to discuss what these changes should be. These changes went to the committee and were all voted on and agreed, which has led to changes in the rules.

RH provided an executive summary of the Working Party.

- The Working Party felt that the current rules needed updating to better reflect the Society. They were last updated in 2017.
- The purpose of the Society was kept almost identical, with the words 'School traditions' changed to 'values'. The objective of The Society is now to *'maintain and promote the values and interests of the School, and to encourage mutual help between those who are and have been connected to it'*.

- The Working Party felt that the current Committee structure is too large, and that a body of 49 people means making decisions are more difficult. An executive committee which could work more closely with the School, and report into the main Committee, has been proposed in the rules.
- The Society was previously known as the SESS - 'The St Edward's School Society', however there was a lot of confusion around the name of the Society and what the individual elements, such as the Martyrs, were. It was therefore proposed that the Society should be changed to the 'OSE Society'.

Ratification of the Rules

- Michael Palau raised his concerns about getting rid of 'tradition' from the Society rules. He asked to hear more about why tradition was being sidelined.
 - RH explained that this was debated extensively at the Working Party, as all were in agreement that tradition was integral to the Society and supporting the School. The angle the party took was that they were not in a place to change or administer School traditions as an outside party – however, they felt the Society could help the school to focus on their values instead.
 - MP said that OSE are past members of the School and couldn't see why supporting the current and past members are mutually exclusive.
 - DS explained that this wasn't a case of the two goals being mutually exclusive, but is more about the Society evolving.
 - DS offered to have a separate conversation with Michael about this.
- RH explained that the Martyrs were now included in the rules of the Society, and that the Martyrs now include Arts as well as Sport as a result of the most recent Committee Meeting.
 - MP raised his concern about the Martyrs including Arts, as he felt that Drama and Music were represented well under the Society as it was. He referred to the Martyrs as the 'Sporting Fraternity' of the OSE. DS said that things have changed so much over the last 10-20 years, that there needs to be better representation of the Arts. MP asked why they couldn't have a separate entity. DS explained that this would dilute the function of the Martyrs.
 - MP asked which activities don't come under the umbrella of the Martyrs.
 - DS clarified that reunion and networking events, debating, and the Teddies Talks series are not included. RH added that the Martyrs should represent 'social interest groups'.
- RH confirmed that the Treasurer of the Society is now the School Accountant, David Thomas.
- CS asked to confirm that in line 2 of the new rules under 'Objects', 'and' should be changed to 'or'.
- Edward Gould proposed the new Rules. Anna Loake seconded the new rules.
- RH read a note from JW – following revision of the rules, the following members were put forward for the Executive Committee: Olivia Bradshaw, Jim Glockling, Alex Walker, Anna Loake, Hector Ahern, Patrick Hinton, Rupert Stevens, Ned Donovan, Molly Healy and Guy Harrison.
 - The following Committee Members have stepped down at this stage: Hamish Atkinson, Grace Robinson, Amy Hicks, Maxine Mackintosh, Henry Narula, James Coker.
 - There are spaces for additional members, particularly in older generations. JW would be delighted to hear of any new members who would like to join the Committee.

- DS asked if everyone was happy with the proposed names – all Committee members were happy.

Alastair Chirside, 14th Warden, welcomed to the Meeting.

- DS introduced AC. AC provided an update on the School and took questions.
- The OSE Community is thriving, AC noted that one of the most important metrics for a School's success is engagement of alumni. This has been seen at recent reunions and other events.
- The School is thriving in itself – 2024 Shell offers have just been completed.
 - Over the last couple of years, the number of applicants for Shell places has gone up 70%
 - This has led to a growth in the size of the School. There will be 790 pupils in September 2022.
 - The School is looking to achieve a 50/50 balance between boys and girls among the pupils.
- AC explained that Staff turnover has historically been between eight and ten per cent – the School is currently just below this. Interest in working at the School is also high. AC said that those who have applied for teaching positions have been excellent and will contribute to the Academic and Pastoral side of the School.
- AC explained the current strategy of the School, which falls under three headings; Scholarship, Excellence and Service (S.E.S)
 - Scholarship: the School is seeking to make the most of being in Oxford. The Tractarian Conference coming up is an example of this, and will include lectures and workshops for pupils.
 - Excellence: AC explained himself and his family would be moving back into the Warden's House in the Quad, to be better connected to the School. Apsley will be developed, as part of the change to becoming a co-educational house. There are plans to develop facilities to deliver excellence – the highest priority for this is Sport, to support the growing School.
 - Service: The School is seeking to make better connections with OSE, beginning with running a series of surveys in Summer asking how School prepared OSE for their lives, and how School could have done better. The School will use these answers to inform the development of the curriculum. The Bursary programme will help to preserve the breadth of the School Community.
- DS asked if there were any questions for the Warden. Andrew asked AC what his view was surrounding the educational rankings, and where he would like to take the School within these rankings.
 - AC wants to raise the bar of the results of those leaving the School.
 - AC said the School wants to maintain the breadth of the School. AC explained that the School running an above average demanding curriculum.
 - AC would like the School to be in the top 50 in the League Tables, but without changing the ethos of the School.
 - AC recognised that league tables are a good 'shorthand' indicator for Schools, but ultimately AC believes League Tables are narrow indicators of a School's success.
 - MP asked if Common Entrance exams were still in place. AC said that the School no longer require Common Entrance, instead offers are conditional on maintaining current academic trajectories.

Report on Society Activities

- Emily Rowbotham explained the strategy for the year was to set up events appealing to a wide group of OSE. One of the objectives was to use the Society budget to engage with as many OSE as possible. Feedback forms are sent after each major events to facilitate improvement in future events.
- ER gave an overview of events, including Blenheim Triathlon, Martyrs Events, Regional Rhubarb, and Rhubarb on Tour. ER said the interaction between generations at Rhubarb on Tour events has been especially nice to see.
- ER also provided a summary of upcoming events.
- ER explained that 'TinT' ('Teddis in Touch') has been sent out termly to OSE, and that surveys will be going out to OSE in April.
- DS extended the Society's thanks to ER for such a productive and successful year

Financial Report

- RH provided the Committee with notes from John.
 - On average, receipt for income should be around £70,000 each year. This will increase as numbers of pupils increases.
 - Communications spend was largely allocated on creation and distribution of Rhubarb.
 - The Society funded care packages for pupils at home during lockdown.
 - The final payment was made towards the Music School Room
 - Other expenses included the annual Martyrs subs, and Rhubarb Merchandise.
- DS explained that Special Gaudy will be on 11th June and will include a Classic Car convoy.

Martyrs Report

- STW to send round a report on the Martyrs.
- DS said that Martyrs Sports Day was very successful.
- The Blenheim Triathlon is also coming up, DS encouraged anyone to come along. The John Woodcock Memorial match will be on 4th June.