**Minutes of the 124th AGM of the Old Cliftonian Society**

**and the Old Cliftonian Society Endowment Fund Trustees,**

**held on Friday 12th November 2021, at 3.00pm**

**Present online:** Simon Reece, Stephen Zimmerman, Myles Watkins, Jez Walters, John Davies, Luke Fromant, Derek Bevan, Myles Watkins, Matt Scott, AJ Rivlin, Fiona Hallworth, George Harris

**In person:** Mark Eldridge, James Isaacs, Kate Holland Smith, Seb Hoyle, Brioney Denner, Andy Rudge, Jo Greenbury, Lucy Nash, Alan Bailey

**Confirmation and approval of the minutes of the 123rd AGM 2020**: These were approved.

**Confirmation and adoption of the 123rd Annual Financial Report and Accounts 2020**: We do not currently have a set of audited accounts, because of multiple postponements by Bishop Fleming. This has had a knock-on effect on the printing of the Magazine, which has had to be delayed until the accounts are ready to print. There will be an EGM in the new year, when the accounts are complete and the Magazine has been posted, hopefully in early February.

Seb Hoyle asked that we request a reduction in the Bishop Fleming fee; all agreed with his proposal.

**The President’s remarks**: Mark Eldridge thanked the Committee for their efforts, making special mention of the Chair and the Treasurer. He also thanked the previous Chairman, Ali Cole, who had resigned at the end of 2020. It had been an odd year, very quiet for a long period, but with events starting up again. Sport had resumed in July, and this term had brought two rugby reunions and two branch dinners so far. This was encouraging and was expected to continue.

£5.6m was the current value of the CCEF, which was another source of satisfaction. He explained that he was now at the end of his second and final term as President, a role he had ‘unexpectedly enjoyed’! He concluded by thanking the OC ‘office team’ for all their hard work.

**The Chair’s review of the year**: Kate Holland Smith agreed that it had been another strange year for the OCS. Another lockdown had eventually given way to a resumption of OC activity, most notably the London Dinner in September and the Cardiff Dinner in October. There had been cricket and golf, real tennis and shooting, football and rugby 7s, and the Bristol Dinner was still to come. She hoped that events in 2022 would be equally popular and well attended.

She thanked Charlie Newington-Bridges, Matt Howard Cairns and Myles Watkins for their splendid stewardship of the CCEF, and close scrutiny of Smith & Williamson, the investment managers. She was able to report that Clive Smith continued to make significant donations to his scholarship fund, and that we had also benefitted from a substantial legacy from Anthony Gwilliam [NT 1948], at just over £220,000. The CCEF was currently supporting 14 scholarships and 8 bursaries, and she thanked all those OCs who had donated during 2021.

She regretted that the Magazine had been delayed, but thanked Jo Greenbury for taking on the Editorship and looked forward to his first edition being published in the new year.

**Elections of officers:** The Chair explained that Mark Eldridge, although at the end of his Presidential term, would remain on the Executive by assuming the role of ‘Immediate Past President’, as laid out in the Society’s Rules. She also expressed her gratitude to ME for his invaluable support and advice.

The following elections then took place:

James Isaacs – President: proposed by Kate Holland Smith, seconded by Seb Hoyle.

Andy Rudge – Committee member: proposed by James Isaacs, seconded by Alan Bailey.

George Harris – Committee member: proposed by James Isaacs, seconded by Brioney Denner.

Matt Howard Cairns – Committee member: proposed by Mark Eldridge, seconded by James Isaacs.

Charlie Newington-Bridges – Vice President: proposed by James Isaacs, seconded by Alan Bailey.

Jez Walters – Vice President: proposed by Kate Holland Smith, seconded by Brioney Denner.

**Appointment of auditors** **and the 2020 accounts:** The problems with the auditing of the 2020 accounts meant that the Society should definitely seek to appoint new auditors in the first quarter of 2022. The new auditors would then start work on the 2021 accounts.

The College Finance Director had suggested to JHG that the Society may not need to be audited, and this would be investigated.

**AOB:**

* Simon Reece asked if Myles Watkins was staying on as Treasurer following his promotion/re-location. The answer was ‘Yes’, in the short term.
* Luke Fromant asked how many Honorary OCs there were and what were the criteria for selection. The list is very long and consists almost entirely of former staff. The convention is to invite those who have done more than 10 years of employment when they leave the College. The Rules provide for up to 12 Honorary OCs who have not been members of staff. It was agreed that these numbers and the criteria would be reviewed when the Rules are finally re-visited.
* Stephen Zimmerman thanked all the Executive Committee members for all the work they do for the school.
* Fiona Hallworth asked that the Committee seeks to ensure that it is a diverse and representative body. This observation was made with issues of gender and ethnicity in mind, but also ‘Clifton background’ e.g. day, boarding, Bristol, wider UK, international et al. The Secretary agreed that diversity must be a consideration in the make-up of the Executive Committee.