



Annual General Meeting of the Old Andean Club

Held via Zoom Call on 21 November 2020

Attendees

RI Caldwell (Mullins 1962); DL Charles (Armstrong 1986); CJK Collier (Armstrong 2003); MA Cordes (Merriman 1960); MFA Cotton (Graham 1991); JGM Creese (Graham 1994); MJS Cruickshank (Espin 1957); JB Ebdon (Armstrong 1969); David Gardner; PJ Gardiner (Upper 1992); IB Hipkin (Armstrong 1968); GA Holmes (Graham 1987); GR Keeton (Graham 1976); AJE La Trobe (Graham 1984); RAS Lishman (Mullins 1972); GP Loudon-Carter (Graham 1969); JH Maree (Upper 1973); A Marriner; AD Moodie (Armstrong 1965); OM Oosthuizen (Espin 1966); M Poland (Hon OA); B Rippon; MJD Ruck (Armstrong 1972); MM Southey (Upper 1993); JG Stapleton (Merriman 1986); DR Sutherland (Merriman 1959); AS Thompson; RC von Ruben (Mullins 1992); BV Wakeham (Merriman 1966); FAH Wilson (Armstrong 1956)

1. Welcome by the President

Myles Ruck welcomed all in attendance and thanked Mark Cotton for being awarded the prestigious role of President of the OA Club. Myles proceeded to deliver his address, which would normally be given at the OA Tide Luncheon to leavers of the 1950's and 1960's, but due to Covid-19 conditions, it was considered best to give it at the AGM.

2. Apologies

DB Arnold (Upper 1956)

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous AGM

Treasurer's report – Correction: Should the R4 000 000.00 loan from the OA Club to the St. Andrew's property trust be written-off, it would trigger tax implications.

Mark Cotton proposed the acceptance of the minutes, Brian Wakeham seconded.

4. Matters Arising out of these Minutes

Feedback on Constitutional Changes, agreed to at last year's AGM:

- General Committee Members - previously only OA's living in the Albany District could sit on this committee. In the interests of modernization, the need to draw members from a broader area and the fact that the Albany District no longer exists, a decision was taken to allow members,

particularly branch chairmen, living outside of this area, to sit on the General Committee. New members include the branch chairmen of the Cape Town and Gauteng branches.

- Proposal for this Meeting: Vice President was previously to reside in the Albany area, new proposal is that the person serving in this position may live outside the former Albany area. No objections, members agreed and constitution will be amended accordingly.

5. Induction of Honorary Life Members

Two individuals have been awarded membership this year: Mr. & Mrs. Roger & Jenny Wilkinson, who have both served College for many years. There a number of people who will also be awarded honorary membership, they will be notified soon and official inclusion will take place at next year's AGM.

6. Headmaster's Report

Mr. Alan Thompson delivered his report as follows:

- Covid-19 impact: School adopted a scientific approach in dealing with the virus in allowing the boys to get the most out of their College experience.
- Academics: A good year, no teaching days were lost. Technology was embraced, changing the way we teach. Good numbers for A-levels for next year. IEB Exams have gone well. Outgoing Matrics have made a wonderful contribution this year.
- Sport –We expected a good season for rugby and hockey, conditions didn't allow. Other sports were able to continue, to allow the boys to spend time in outside and in the sun, for health reasons. An adapted Cricket inter-house 'IPL', called the CPL, was started and will, no doubt, continue in the future. The boarding 'Bubble' enabled us to continue with sport.
- Music – With no big cast musical taking place this year, we were still, however, able to continue with music in other formats.
- Debating – Due to Covid, Video Conferencing has transformed our debating, in that we can now debate against stronger opposition, from across the globe. St. Andrew's is now the African lead in the Positive Education Network, after a 3-day strategic planning session on the matter.
- Transformation & Diversity – After the 'Black Lives Matter' movement awoke during the course of the year, it presented the ideal opportunity to engage with a wide diversity of Old Andreans to find the key issues in a logical and principled way. A new committee of Council has been established, with 3 Old Andreans sitting on it, making substantial and meaningful progress.
- Staff & Boys – The school is blessed with a remarkable staff, with many going way beyond the call of duty this year. Boys have been phenomenal this year, being co-operative, during a challenging time.
- Numbers – School running close to full capacity. We've been fortunate enough to draw from a financial pool to assist those parents whose livelihoods have been decimated due to Covid.
- Makhanda – some progress has been made. Water supply improved, due to National Department of Water & Sanitation, resulting in regular supply. Two thirds of the Eskom debt has been paid. Money set aside for road development and repair, has been recalled for Covid relief.
- Although a challenging year, it has been a good one and thanks must go out to understanding and supportive parents, as well as a tireless College Council for making this year the success it's been.

7. Questions for the Headmaster

Jacko Maree congratulated Alan Thompson on his leadership of the school and for how the College staff team was able pull together and get the school through this crisis.

8. Honorary Secretary's Report

Malcolm Southey reported on the role of the General Committee within the OA Club. Listing major topics of discussion and change during the course of the year. He thanked outgoing members of the General Committee, as well as The Foundation Department, for their contributions to the Club.

9. Honorary Treasurer's Report

Gavin Keeton reported on the financial status of the Club. Income was reduced for lifetime subscriptions as a result of Covid, with a decision being made to reduce the charge by 50%. Expenses were a lot more than income, as a result of a donation towards #Academic Excellence (drawn from cash), other costs are for OA Connect – the social media platform. Andrean Magazine costs, particularly postage costs, have reduced significantly. The Share Portfolio has remained constant and will be assimilated into the Centenary Endowment Fund.

10. Andrean Association Report

John Stapleton thanked the school and members of Council for the work they have done in the management and development of the Highlander and Hayhoe establishments. Capital Caterers have been appointed to take over the management of the Highlander. Development of the Hayhoe has gone well. The Highlander has shown it's first profit in a long time, which is positive.

Graham Loudon-Carter commented that he and Mike Lovell were pleased with the changes and improvements at the Highlander, after a prior sub-standard experience and wished to thank everyone involved. Brian Wakeham echoed these sentiments.

11. The 300 Club Fund

Mark Cotton reported that the 300 Club was subject to changes under the National Lotteries Commission, with substantial hurdles as a result. A decision was made by the General Committee to transform the club to a revamped 300 Club Fund, with an alternative fundraising mechanism administered by the Foundation Office, with the explicit role of raising funds for bursaries, this being consistent with the intent of the original founders. A work in progress, as a result of Covid, this revamped Club will continue to be developed in time to come.

12. Office Bearers for 2021

President for 2021 – Marguerite Poland

Interim Vice President – Gavin Keeton

Secretary – Malcolm Southey

Treasurer – Gavin Keeton

Interim Andrean Association – John Stapleton

Gavin Keeton mentioned the need for younger members to serve on this committee, particularly as Vice-President. Marguerite Poland thanked Mark and the OA Club for the appointment as President and was deeply honored to serve the OA Club.

13. Branch Reports

Mark Cotton reported that due to Covid, there was not much to report on, but that 2021 promises to be a notable year for functions and encouraged all members to play a role at branch level.

14. General

Myles Ruck thanked Mark Cotton for the effort and commitment he has put into the OA Club.

Mark Cotton thanked all those in attendance.

The meeting ended at 12H14