



Old Chigwellians' Association Executive Committee Meeting
7.00pm, Tuesday 5th May 2026
Virtual Meeting on MS Teams

Attendees:

Exec Team	Year Reps & OCs	Clubs	School Staff
Anusha Balasingam (President)	Andrew Pearson (OC Rep 1960-1979)	Pat Ward (OC Wednesday Lunch Club and OC Rep 1940-1959)	Damian King (Head)
Aegean Simpson (Ex Officio President)		Paul Garfield (OC Football Club)	Lisa Mina (Philanthropy Officer)
Miles Taylor (Vice President)			
Catherine Xu (General Secretary)			

1. Welcome and Apologies

- Please note this meeting is being recorded to assist with minute taking.
- Meeting called to order by D King at 7:04pm.
- Apologies: Graham Olliffe (OC Rep 1940-1959), Deep Johal (OC Rep 1980-1999), Ross Berndes (OC Tennis Club) and James Rea (Bursar)
- Scott is no longer at school. He sends his best wishes to you all. He is now in post at Latymer Upper School. We are thankful to him for all his work at Chigwell School.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- P Ward confirmed he did not approve the 20th January 2026 minutes.
- A Balasingam approved the minutes from 20th January 2026.
- A Balasingam approved the minutes from 17th March 2026.

Matters Arising

- P Ward raised a concern that actions from January minutes, particularly regarding the creation of a working subgroup, had not progressed.
- P Ward made a request for action points to be clearly summarised at the end of future minutes for follow-up.
- The outstanding actions identified are:
 - Breakdown of early-bird vs full-price ticket sales
 - Review of age-related pricing decisions
 - Clarification of OCA committee meeting start times
- There was extensive discussion about making meetings more effective and action-focused. It was agreed that projects should be progressed through small working groups, with updates fed back to the Executive Committee.
- The following projects were agreed as priorities:
 - **Shrove Tuesday 2027:** Create early communications for 40-year leavers (Class of 1987). Lead: A Simpson



- **Sports Clubs:** Requiring more support in boosting numbers and communicating with school players from the last 7 years. Leads: P Garfield and M Taylor
 - **Carol Concert:** To plan this new event for Old Chigwellians. Lead: P Ward
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3. President's update by A Balasingam

- Careers & Higher Education Convention - 26th March with OC participation.
 - MVI Assembly on becoming OCs - A Balasingam presented. L Mina handed out a booklet with strong uptake response on Chigwell Connect.
 - Networking breakfasts - Law was on 1st May, Finance on 12th June and all-industries on 3rd July. See the [events page](#) on Connect for more information.
 - Speech Day – The guest speaker is Tanni Grey-Thompson, former wheelchair racer. Then the Chigwell Ball will follow in the Sport & Wellness Centre
 - Class of 2016, 10-Year Reunion – The date is 24th September 2026 and invitations have been sent out via email.
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4. Head's Update by D King

- Very positive inspection outcome (awaiting formal publication).
 - Strong admissions picture overall, despite market pressures.
 - Extensive co-curricular activity and trips.
 - We said farewell to Scott, who has moved roles and thanked him for all his work at Chigwell School.
 - Chigwell Connect continues to grow and includes all leavers and staff.
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5. Women's Sport by A Balasingam

- We had a successful netball match, OCs vs pupils.
 - The next netball fixture is planned for January indoors.
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6. Men's Sport

Football by P Garfield

- Numbers declining; risk of losing 2nd XI
- Challenge with recruitment of younger alumni
- Strong support for a targeted reconnection strategy

Golf by M Taylor

- Ongoing difficulties with participation across schools
 - Importance of staff cooperation in identifying and promoting talented leavers
 - Suggestion for short promotional video content to improve engagement
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7. Wednesday Lunch Club by P Ward

- Strong attendance and growth (approaching 40 attendees)
- Recent events well received
- Future events planned:
 - Cream tea



- Country lunch
 - Summer lunch at school – Thursday 9th July
 - Carol concert idea raised
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8. OC Clubhouse

- No immediate issues raised
 - Improvement noted in tidiness and use of space
 - Desire to start next season proactively
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9. Future Meetings

- AGM: 6th October 2026
 - Additional meeting to be held only if required, depending on project progress
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10. AOB

- M Taylor raised merging the OCA and OCC. D King welcomes OCs to contact him with a plan.
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Meeting concluded at 8:00pm.

Actions Summary

- L Mina to include an Actions Summary at the end of the minutes in all future meetings.
- L Mina to confirm the numbers of early bird vs full price ticket sales from Shrove Tuesday 2026.
- L Mina to ask the OCA committee their preferred meeting start times.
- A Simpson to lead 40-year leavers Shrove Tuesday 2027 campaign and seek assistance from L Mina when required.
- P Garfield and M Taylor to send L Mina wording (and possibly a video) for an email to OCs about joining sports clubs.
- L Mina to contact the school PE Department and ask them for names of pupil footballers and golfers over the past 7 years.
- P Ward to email everyone the Wednesday lunch Cub dates for this year.
- P Ward to contact D King to explore an OC Carol Concert.
- Project leads to update L Mina, who will coordinate communication.
- M Taylor / OCs to send D King a plan for merging the OCA and OCC.