Chigwell School

Mrs Lisa Mina
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Old Chigwellians' Association Executive Committee Meeting
7.00pm, Tuesday 20th January 2026
Virtual Meeting on MS Teams

Attendees:

Exec Team	Year Reps & OCs	Clubs	School Staff
Anusha Balasingam (President)	Andrew Pearson (OC Rep 1960-1979)	Paul Garfield (OC Football)	Damian King (Head)
Aegean Simpson (Ex Officio President)	James Abbott (OC Rep 2000-2019)	Pat Ward (OC Wednesday Lunch Club and OC Rep 1940-1959)	Scott Franssen (Director of Philanthropy)
Miles Taylor (Vice President and OC Rep 1960-1979)	Deep Johal (OC 1990-1996)		Lisa Mina (Philanthropy Officer)
	Sharath Jeevan (OC 1992-1994)		
	Andrew Abbott (OC 2011-2018)		

Apologies: Clive Garfield (Hon Treasurer), Catherine Xu (General Secretary), Graham Olliffe (OC Rep 1940-1959), Ross Berndes (OC Tennis) and James Rea (Bursar)

1. **Welcome from the Head**
   Meeting called to order by D King at 7:03pm.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**
   - Meeting on 18th November 2025 – Approved by A Simpson
   - P Ward raised that there are not many people joining these meetings. D King explained that we do offer all OCs the opportunity to attend the meetings and to let him know if anyone has any suggestions on how to increase this.

3. **Head's update by D King**
   - Carol services, UCAS applications, interview meetings, 12 days of Christmas
   - Admissions – Last 2 Saturdays and this Saturday. Good numbers, oversubscribed in every year group. Full at 1,150 from Reception to Year 13.
   - Social media feeds with lots of exciting news. – Choir pupils saw OC Ben Shephard at "This Morning" recording with highest number of likes. There were also the 100-year-old Chemistry papers found and the fascination of the archives.
   - New school video launching
   - Shrove Tuesday coming up 24 February 2026.
   - We have been awarded 'Top 10 Independent School for Academic Excellence 2026 in East Anglia'.
   - OC Wednesday lunch club December lunch
   - New property purchased adjacent to the school to expand the boarding at the school. 20 to 32 and hoping to get it up to about 50 pupils.
   - We have more networking events – Finance, law, economics, medicine
   - We would like to know, how can we connect more with younger OCs?

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- We are looking to produce a questionnaire to a large audience. – How can we better connect?
- M Taylor - OC Golf young people not looking at emails. Looking at getting mobile numbers for WhatsApp groups. A Balasingam and J Abbott agreed with the WhatsApp groups.
- S Jeevan – Young alumni programme. He is doing that with Cambridge College. More engaged in the first couple of years, more longevity. On top of university visits. D King also mentioned the Wellbeing Centre and David Gower to pick up calling the previous Year 13s.
- A Pearson – The large screen outside is fantastic and has had a lot of positive feedback from Forest parents who visited the school.
- P Ward – Careers evenings organised by OC Graham Scrivener who does wine tasting.
- M Taylor – Are you looking to get people in to talk about careers and networking in the Property industry?
- D King - We have the careers convention, hopefully next year expanding to the Sport & Wellness Centre. Those courses on Property are not popular at the moment, but they may get added when we expand.

4. President's update by A Balasingam

- The OC Mitre magazine mailed out in December and the electronic version is online.
- Shrove Tuesday, 24th February - 59 registered (52 OCs). Earlybird tickets have helped increase numbers.

  1950 to 1969 = 16
  1970 to 1989 = 9
  1990 to 1999 = 20
  2000 to 2025 = 7
- Multi-year reunion: 20 years (2006); 30 years (1996), 40 years (1986), 50 years (1976). S Franssen to do a poll to gage popularity before the next meeting.
- Seeking presenters representing wide range of professions, career development, networking – D Johal commented that he is an ex-owner of a RICS company and would talk about RICS and property.
- Careers support - Young OCs going out into the workforce. A virtual meeting 3 years after they leave Chigwell to support with careers advice. - S Jeevan offered to do an online session at a reunion to with careers advice.
- Create a subgroup to have a meeting to help set this up.

5. Women's Sport by A Balasingam

- Netball game got cancelled because of the weather. Hoping to reschedule.
- M Taylor - Can the school send out an email or social media asking if there are any ladies interested in golf or tennis? Monday 1st June is the golf women's tournament. All we need is 2 to 5 players.
- P Ward – OCs had a relationship with Chigwell Golf Club.
- A Pearson – OC Melissa Garnish plays golf.
- M Taylor – Jane Ahern at Chigwell School plays golf.

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6. Men's Sport

Football by P Garfield

- Had 7 teams and now down to 2. It's a challenge and struggle to get new young players. 1st XI team is doing ok. 2nd XI team are trying to get promoted. Vets have games against Harrow and Eaton coming up.
- The Clubhouse has improved. Some work needs to be done on the pitches. Speaking with Catherine Willson at school.

Golf by M Taylor

- Fixture list has just been put together – Will send dates to L Mina for the Connect website.
- Stow golf competition with 40-50 year olds.

Tennis – R Berndes (via email prior to the meeting)

- We are working on putting together women for the women's league.
- We have a tennis table for Shrove Tuesday.

7. Wednesday Lunch Club by P Ward

- We had the Christmas lunch at the end of term.
- Dates for every month - Send dates to L Mina
- Cream team in August
- Carol Concert in the Chapel in December
- No spring lunch as the Dining Hall has a planned clean.

8. OC Clubhouse by D King

- Waiting to hear from Leyton Orient. The new shareholders have not contacted us and are still deciding.
- P Ward – They made the clubhouse clear and tidy. There was a stack of plastic boxes still outside so I will send an email to J Rea.

9. Future meeting dates

- 17th March (was previously 24th March)
- 5th May (was previously 19th May)
- 6th October 2026 (AGM)
- Change start time to 7.30pm – S Franssen to send a poll on this.

10. AOB

- M Taylor - Alan Horn (OC 1939-1946) passed away. L Mina aware and in touch with the family.
- M Taylor - Ian Hardy (OC 1947-1955) died last week.
- P Ward - OCC and OCA merger. Have a working group to organise how we can do that. D King says there was governance involvement, membership fees and legal work required.

Meeting concluded at 8:03pm.