



**Chigwell School**

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**Old Chigwellians' Association Executive Committee Meeting**  
**7.00pm, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Virtual Meeting on MS Teams**

**Attendees:** Catherine Xu (General Secretary), Aegean Simpson (Ex Officio President), Andrew Pearson (OC 1969-1975), Damian King (Head), James Rea (Bursar) and Lisa Mina (Philanthropy Officer)

**Apologies:** Anusha Balasingam (President), Miles Taylor (Vice President), Paul Garfield (OC Football), Ross Berndes (OC Tennis), Pat Ward (OC Wednesday Lunch Club), Tim Cannell, Nick Garnish, Graham Olliffe, Scott Franssen (Director of Philanthropy)

**1. Welcome from the Head**

Meeting called to order by D King at 7:07pm.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

A Simpson approved the minutes.

**3. Head's update**

- Trips at half term – NASA, Madrid, Barcelona football trip
- Mock exams week with Year 11 and 13.
- Pupils are completing their UCAS and university applications
- School play coming up 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> December – 'Anastasia'
- Christmas Carols at St Marys Church
- There are lots of shows, play and assemblies, as well as the reindeers visiting Pre Prep
- Sport going well. Good Lower School sports with football and hockey
- 130 pupils in Year 7 and 8, 110 in Years 9, 10 and 11
- A lovely Christmas tree has been put up outside the S&WC
- Admissions season, we are very popular and in a very healthy position
- More boarders on the site 31 compared to 24 previously
- Repurposing of Harsnett's boarding house with more bedrooms
- James Bond evening with a casino night
- We have teams abroad out recruiting boarders around the world
- There was a presentation from the OCC about developing the clubhouse. Thank you to P Ward. We are going to then be presenting them to Leyton Orient.

**4. President's update (by D King)**

- Shrove Tuesday – 24<sup>th</sup> February
- Reunions – We had the Class of 2015 10-year reunion. What are your thoughts on 20, 30, 40-year reunion?
- Aegean – Could we have a poll on this? Utilise this as an idea to get more year groups together and for fundraising it's a good idea. Can we go up to 50 years to include her year.

**5. Women's Sport**

- L Mina carried over that there was a date in the diary 10 January 2026 for a netball match. More details / confirmation to follow.



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### 6. Men's Sport

- No update provided.

### 7. Wednesday Lunch Club

- A Pearson – When is the Heads Christmas lunch? L Mina confirmed this will be on Monday 15th December and is being organised by P Ward.

### 8. OC Clubhouse

- A Simpson mentioned P Garfield sent through photos of how Leyton Orient were leaving the clubhouse. D King said it was busy but tidy when he saw it, but we will keep reminding Leyton Orient to keep the clubhouse tidy and please do keep letting us know when this is not happening.
- J Rea and D King saw a presentation by P Ward on the plans. OCs Paul Garfield, Joffee Bradley, Miles Taylor and Rory Taylor also attended.
- Since the majority shareholder changed, we have not heard much so we are arranging a meeting with them to share the OCC plans and see what their intentions are.
- A Simpson mentioned to J Rea that they had a padel company approach them which was forwarded to the school. J Rea said we receive lots of requests like this and is there any way that these requests can come straight to the school, rather than going through the OCC.
- A Pearson asked if the school are likely to get padel in. D King confirmed we are not currently. We are waiting to see the clubhouse plans first. There may be a possibility to develop padel in the future. A Pearson mentioned that Woodford Wells are removing some of their tennis courts to create padel courts. If the school needs any help with connections or wants to get in touch with them, then he is more than happy to help.

### 9. Future meeting dates

- 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026
- 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026 (AGM)

### 10. Future events

- Shrove Tuesday, including football match – 24<sup>th</sup> February

### 11. AOB

- OCA Meetings – A Simpson asked if there was a reason the meeting start time was changed from 7.30pm to 7pm as maybe some people are struggling to get online so early. 7.30pm works better for her but she wanted to know if others felt the same or preferred 7pm. Maybe we could do a poll.
- Gala – A Simpson asked about numbers and how it is going. D King explained how it is a launch event for our plans for 2029. Unfortunately, the date didn't work for people, so we hope to rearrange the event for next year.
- OC Mitre – A Simpson asked about how it is going. L Mina explained that they are hopefully being printed this week and should be with you the beginning of December.
- Connect website – D King wanted to mention that the Events and Archive sections on the website have been very popular, and we have many photos in our digital archives.

**Meeting concluded at 7:38pm.**