

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
The Society of Old Framlinghamians
2.00pm on Wednesday 29th April, 2020
Via ‘Zoom’, as an on line Video/Voice Conference Call
Due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic**

Present: Simon Dougherty – President – in the Chair; Rene Bahar; Nigel Burnip; John Ellerby; Ruth Elwood (Hon Gen Sec); Chris Essex; Jon Ford; Alex Henney; Peter Howard Dobson; Kate Jackson; Barry Lorkin; Andrew Lillie; JoJo Maberly; Tim Mitchell; Norman Porter; John Rankin; James Ruddock-Broyd; Richard Sayer; Brian Smith; Clive Smith; Michael Smy; Chris Sneath; Douglas Thomson; Colin Wigg; Ele Williamson; Archie Winter.

1.0	Apologies	
1.1	David Carr; Bill Collard; Nick Jacob; Chris Keeble; Tony Martin; David Turnbull; John Waugh; Andrew Wright.	
1.2	The President welcomed everyone to the AGM and offered his thanks to everyone for their patience with rescheduling and signing in on Zoom today. The President offered his formal thanks to Alex Henney for making the technical arrangements and for hosting the secure Video Conferences.	
1.3	The President asked if anyone had any known conflicts of interest. None declared.	
2.0	Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 6th April 2019.	
2.1	These Minutes had been emailed to Council by the President ahead of the meeting and had been made available on the website (www.oldframlinghamian.com).	
2.2	Item 8.4: Clarification that James Ruddock-Broyd was arranging a Pickard commemoration, at St Martin-in-the-Fields and was not involved in the FC Remembrance Sunday Pickard commemoration.	
2.3	Item 5.16: Bob Williams requested a correction from ‘Shirl the Twirl’ to ‘Shirl the Whirl’.	
2.4	The President invited further comments on content. None received. The minutes were proposed for adoption by the President and seconded by the Hon Gen Sec. supported unanimously by Council. These are to be signed as a true record of proceedings on 6 th April 2019.	

3.0	Matters arising.	
3.1	All to be discussed later, however the President confirmed he had written to Tony Martin, as per AGM Minutes 2019, Item 8.5, on 10 th April 2019. Tony had contacted the President to confirm he was content with the letter.	
3.2	Other comments on matters arising were invited by the President. None received.	
4.0	To Receive the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019.	
4.1	Chris Essex advised that copies of the SOF and SOFCT accounts were emailed to Council Members ahead of the meeting and had been uploaded to the SOF web site and issued via the News Digest as an email circulated to 2,000 members. They can also be obtained by sending a large SAE to the Chairman of Trustees, Chris Essex, 3 Kingston Avenue, Saltford, Bristol, BS31 3LF.	
4.2	CE presented the key elements relating accounts for the year ended 31 st December 2019, which have been formally approved by the Trustees, Ensors and Society's auditors, noting there was little variation from the previous year. As a result, and with consideration for how the AGM is being held via Zoom, details were kept fairly brief.	
4.3	Accounts: There are two sets of accounts; one for the Society and one for the SOF Charitable Trust, which were noted as having not varied much since the previous year's accounts.	
4.4	Overview: Overall 2019 was a relatively quiet year for the Society. With the retirement of Paul Taylor and the appointment of Louise North, the Trustees look forward to hearing the future strategy of the College and then determining how the Society might support it.	
4.4.1	In the meantime, the Trustees are taking the opportunity of supporting a much needed revamp of the SOF website, to make it much more user friendly and relevant to the needs of our members. A review of the OF Prizes awarded at Speech Day has also been undertaken. Regrettably, as there were fewer applications for the second and subsequent year awards, the Trustees have decided to limit the awards to a single payment, from and including 2019 Speech Day, whilst still honouring prizes awarded in past years.	
4.4.2	Throughout 2019 the Society's Investment Managers at Investec, have looked after our funds on a discretionary management basis. Subject to our investment policy and benchmarks, which are reviewed at least annually, Investec	

	are fully responsible for the choice of the investments in the Society's portfolio. Our investment policy has remained unchanged throughout the year, with the Trustees seeking a balanced return over a 10 year+ period, between income and growth, based on Investec's Medium Risk approach.	
4.5	Society's General Account , Page 7: The grant from the College was down slightly reflecting the lower overall expenditure by the SOF. The cost of merchandise was up, which this year covered the balance of the scarves and the purchase of assorted ties. The difference in Honoraria paid is due to the Hon. Secretary previously having waived his honorarium. The grant from the Trustees was mainly to cover the purchase of merchandise and the Society's contribution to the celebration of John Simpson's 100 th birthday. Comments were invited. None received.	
4.6	The Trustees Income Accounts , Page 8: This shows that investment income had declined very slightly this year mainly as a result of the change in the underlying investments during 2018, with the emphasis moving from pure income, to income and growth approach. Donations to SOF Charitable Fund were lower due to a combination of less charitable activities and lower realised capital gains.	
4.7	Balance Sheet , Page 9: The Balance Sheet at year end remains in a healthy state, with its value increasing by £150,217 to £1,552,990. This is mainly from the rise in the value of the portfolio. The current position is explained below. It should be borne in mind that this total includes £309,740 of loans provided to the SOF Charitable Fund, in order to maximise the tax efficiency of the £500,000 Fowler donation, (see note 4 on page 14). Over the last year the portfolio, net of fees grew 15.6%, compared with a gross of fees benchmark of 15.5% as a pleasing outcome. The value of our investments at 31 st December 2019 was £1,209,642.	
4.8	Comments were invited on the Society's General Account. None received.	
4.9	SOF Charitable Accounts – Statement of Financial Activities, (SOFA) , Page 8: this year reflects the usual state of affairs whereby its income is matched by the expenditure. The charity ended the year with a small surplus of £586 but after taking gains of £19,753 into account, transferred £20,339 to reserves. This is a similar amount to that of the previous year. The previous year the Charity benefitted from an exceptional donation of £47,820 from the Society largely to cover realised gains in the SOF funds. This year the Charity	

	received £19,538 in donations, of which £15,046 was received from the Society to meet the usual awards and grants. The SOF donation included £3,850, as an exceptional contribution based on its taxable gains.	
4.9.1	The Trustees wish to thank all those members who have completed gift aid declarations with donations as this enabled the Charity to claim additional funds from HMRC.	
4.9.2	The restructuring of investments to put greater emphasis on growth has been in place for full year now and has resulted in a small reduction in our investment income to £2,974. However, in view of the cash balances the charity holds, the Trustees do not envisage having to realise capital in order to fund existing commitments.	
4.9.3	The recovery in the stockmarket last year reversed the previous losses and saw the portfolio end the year at £151,764. The total return achieved by Investec was 16.1% over the last year, net of fees. This compares with a gross of fees benchmark of 15.5%. Investec had held a broadly neutral position in all asset classes during the year.	
4.10	Balance Sheet , Page 9: Whilst the Balance Sheet remains skewed by the loan, but the Trustees are pleased that it continues to strengthen. Reserves are considered adequate for the level of activity currently undertaken.	
4.11	Grants and Awards , Page 16: These totalled £13,856 during 2019. As in recent years the bulk of the individual awards were prizes given out on Prize Day and these consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 prizes paying £50 at Year 11. • 15 prizes paying £100 at Year 13. • 2 Albert Awards paying £150 in Year 13 on speech day. 	
4.11.1	As above, these are now one-off awards, with some small amounts of follow up awards in respect of previous years. These awards are in addition to those given for 2 Moreau Leaving Scholarships each year of £1,000 per annum for 3 years, making an outlay of £6,000 in total per annum.	
4.11.2	In addition to the OF Prizes described in more detail below, the Charity gave financial assistance to pupils to go on a choir tour; to visit Tibet and supported another in attending the 2 nd year at Manhattan School of Music. Other grants included £60 for trophies to be awarded in support of girl's cricket at FCPS. Comments were invited on the Charitable Accounts.	
4.12	Comments were invited on the Charitable Accounts.	

4.12.1	JE asked how many claims had been made for the 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th year of Student Prize Award Claims. Chris advised the number was around 25%. The most proactive group were made by proactive follow up enquiries from Morea Scholars.	
4.12.2	The President enquired into the value of gift aid raised from donations. Michael Smy advised as just under £1,000.	
4.12.3	John Ellerby enquired about the Trustees' new 'enhanced public benefit statement'. John asked if this had it been driven by the Trustees, to be more appropriate to enforce the current situation? This was confirmed as correct by CE.	
4.13	Chris gave a brief update as follows on investments since the end of 2019, given the current health and financial crisis being faced.	
4.13.1	SOF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 31st December 2019, investments were valued at £1,209,642. At 31st March 2020 these had fallen to £1,046,396. That's a fall of 12%. 	
4.13.2	SOFCT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 31st December 2019, investments were valued at £151,764. At 31st March 2020, these had fallen to £130,908. That's a fall of almost 14%. 	
4.13.3	As a total, the funds have fallen by approx. £166,000. However, this compares with a 25% fall in FTSE 100 and 31% fall in FTSE 250 over the same period. Investec have also comfortably outperformed the benchmark over this period.	
4.13.4	Given that the immediate impact on the Society is likely to be a significant fall in investment income, the Trustees will be meeting immediately after this AGM concludes, to look at whether any actions are necessary to reduce or our planned expenditure.	
4.14	Questions on SOF Finance were invited by CE. None raised.	
4.15	The President invited any comments or dissent on the accounts as presented. They were proposed for adoption by the President and seconded by CE. Accounts were agreed unanimously by Council for approval and signing.	
5.0	President's Review of the Year 2019 to 2020	
5.1	The President, Simon Dougherty, provided a brief overview of the last 12 months as follows:	

5.2	<i>Events</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President noted that Paul Taylor's departure was marked at the SOF Annual Dinner April 2019; • The President attended the Newmarket Council Meeting and Supper, arranged by Ian Fulcher in May 2019; • The President attended the London Council Meeting and Supper in July 2019, held at the Famers Club; • The President attended the Suffolk Council Meeting and Supper, arranged by Hon Gen Sec held at FC in October 2019; • The President attended the Norfolk Supper, organised by Colin Wigg in November 2019; • The President attended the London Council Meeting and Supper held at the Lansdowne Club in January 2020, curtesy of Alex Henney, noting this was the last meeting held this year as a group; • The President noted the cancellation of the Annual Dinner in March and Bury St Edmunds Supper in April 2020, due to COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic; • The President has attended FC as a longstanding Governor; on the 2019 Speech Day; Remembrance Sunday and Carol Service in 2019. 	
5.3	<i>Governance of the Society</i>	
5.3.1	The President explained how the introduction of SOF Business Planner has assisted the many involved with the Society, prompting timely actions to complete SOF business; especially for Kate Jackson with joint actions with FC.	
5.4	<i>People</i>	
5.4.1	To recognise contributions made by many, some of whom are to be formally voted in later in the meeting, to include:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Elwood – Formally thanked for stepping into the role of Hon Gen Sec, following her co-option at the 2019 AGM; • Jenny Binder – Formally thanked for her many years of assistance as the now the outgoing Hon Treasurer; • David Carr – a previous Hon Treasurer, who has offered to take on the role from Jenny Binder, to act again as Hon Treasurer. The president offered his grateful thanks for stepping into the role again; • John Ellerby, who has stepped down as Trustee, following his appointment as Chairman of FinOp at FC; • Simon Tucker, who has volunteered to join the Trustees, although he was not able to join us today; • 3 people during the year have volunteered and been co-opted onto Council. These are: Cam Greenhall; 	

	<p>Christina Johnston and Slava Johnston;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luke Quartermaine: who has volunteered to act as Sports Coordinator; • Past Presidents and senior colleagues were thanked for their continued support, guidance and common sense; • The President noted all the hard work provided by all on the Trustees, Council, Finance Committee and Moreau Scholarship Selection Committee, chaired by David Mallett. He confirmed the selection of this year's scholars is ongoing, despite the current lockdown. • The SOF Admin team: The President thanked the Admin Team for keeping the website up to date; especially Chris Essex and Peter H-D, for the huge amount of time given to this task and reviewing the new web site requirements. • Kate Jackson: The President thanked Kate as SOF Co-ordinator, who has currently been furloughed by FC along with many support and teaching staff. The President is delighted she has volunteered to continue assisting the Society in the background. Currently administrative communication is coming direct from FC and is ongoing. • OFGS and OFRC: for the huge amount of success, activity and support to FC. • Thanks were also offered to all the Supper coordinators, Framlinghamianian correspondents and all the above mentioned people's actions and contributions that make the Society what it is; noting it is a very strong former pupil's society. 	
5.5	<i>Membership</i>	
5.5.1	<i>Centenarians:</i> The President noted several celebrations of Centenaries – in person and/or with card when dates known and otherwise, recognised in Council minutes. He offered his grateful thanks to Chris Keeble for producing the bespoke cards and to Chris Essex, who is in the process of cross referencing the Green Book with the database to identify OF Centenarians. This is a lengthy task and will be ongoing.	
5.6	<i>Deaths</i>	
5.6.1	<i>Deaths:</i> There have been many and these are all listed on website and in Appendix 1.	
5.6.2	The President mentioned a few names, although all are important, but he formally recognised the passing of Peter Liell, Mullie Borrett, John Edwards, John Simpson and most recently Michael Spencer who were important in the running of the Society or influence at FC over the years.	

5.7	<i>The College</i>	
5.7.1	Departure of Paul Taylor has already been discussed, followed by the arrival of Louise North. The President has had several constructive meetings and attended Suffolk Supper; and was meant to be a Senior guest at the Annual Dinner (cancelled).	
5.7.2	The President has had detailed discussions on data sharing. These are ongoing and the President is grateful to the strong working group of Peter Howard-Dobson, John Ellerby, Tim Mitchell and Chris Essex who are taking this forward.	
5.7.3	The President noted that there is a strong link between the Principal and Trustees to manage benevolence assistance for deserving pupils, managed on a case by case basis.	
5.8	<i>The Framlinghamian</i>	
5.8.1	The President noted that this has been a rather tortuous pathway to reach agreement with Paul Taylor in Dec. 2018 for appropriate software to be used for publication. In autumn 2019 a decision from FC was for all OFs to get paper copy with an additional 'outsert' to capture choices for digital or paper copies. Several hundred members have returned preference choices as electrical and paper replies. This is still ongoing and the furlough of KJ currently precludes any up to date figures from FC; but probably 1/5 of the membership has responded. The President formally offered thanks to Chris Keeble for his design of the 'outsert'.	
5.9	<i>SOF Finance Committee</i>	
5.9.1	The Finance Committee is not meeting today. It has taken a proposal to return unused funds to FC from the operational account (OOC) now and not later in the year, as would be usual. With Michael Smy's assistance, over £3,500 was identified and returned for events such as the Annual supper, with the OFGC and OFSC returning funds of £2,400 and £1,188 from unused sporting activities. Total funds returned to FC currently are around £7,200, well ahead of the usual end of year return. The President noted that FC funds are tight as a result of the Corona lockdown, with Bill Rimmer, Louise North and Nick Chaplin thanking the SOF for their generosity via email.	
5.9.2	The President is looking forward to next year and perhaps eventually returning to something resembling normality. In the meantime, the SOF will conduct its business on line as 'virtual' meetings. Current known dates for 2021 include the AGM and Annual Dinner to be held on 21 st March at FC.	
5.9.3	Questions were invited: none received.	
6.0	To Elect a New Trustee of The Society	
6.1	All those whose names are noted below were formally	

	proposed and seconded, and unanimously agreed at SOF Council Meeting held on 23 rd January 2020. The President shared a sheet of nominations for Council to review via Zoom, whilst describing those listed.	
6.2	Continuing Trustees – confirmation only: Chris Essex, Peter Howard-Dobson and Michael Smy and Alex Henney.	
6.3	New Trustee – A 4 year position: Simon Tucker (K72-78), one of 3 bothers. Simon has a finance background with several roles as finance director and entrepreneur running many businesses, which are currently being challenged by the Coronavirus. One of these requires his attention today, preventing him from ‘attending’ the AGM, although he confirmed prior to the meeting, that he will become more involved with the SOF as his business challenges lessen. He is also Hon. Treasurer of the Suffolk Show with £5m/pa cost management role. ST was proposed by Chris Essex and seconded by Peter Howard-Dobson, and he was elected unanimously.	
7.0	To Elect Officers of the Society for 2020-2021	
7.1	President: The Hon Gen Sec took the chair and advised Council that Simon Dougherty was content to stand for a second year as President; as proposed at London Council Meeting by Douglas Thomson and seconded by Norman Porter. Objections were invited, with none received, confirming approval of SD’s second term as President. The meeting was returned to the President.	
7.2	The President then invited Council to consider the need to appoint his future successor, asking members to identify a possible candidate, should anyone wish to volunteer. No one volunteered at the meeting, but any post meeting follow-up contact was invited, with interested parties contacting Simon, John Ellerby or Norman Porter.	
7.3	Vice President - Mike Bullock (R55-59) – Working with South African Colleagues and collecting data for Chris Essex, MB was proposed by CE and seconded by the President. Objections were invited, with none received, confirming approval of MB’s election to Vice President.	
7.4	Hon Gen Sec – Ruth Elwood was co-opted by Council in May 2019 and was proposed by the President and seconded by Norman Porter.	
7.5	Hon Treasurer – David Carr offered to take up position again at the London Supper. He was proposed by the President	

	and seconded by Norman Porter.	
7.6	Council Members:	
7.6.1	Moreau Scholar Cam Greenhall, co-opted by Council in July 2019 proposed by the President and seconded by Peter Howard Dobson.	
7.6.2	Opera singer Christina Johnston, proposed by Hon Gen Sec and seconded by Norman Porter and;	
7.6.3	Chrissy's husband, Slava Johnston, proposed by Hon Gen Sec and seconded by Norman Porter.	
7.7	Sports Co-ordinator - Luke Quartermaine, volunteered as of April 2020, proposed by Peter Howard-Dobson and seconded by the President.	
7.8	Objections were invited by the President for all of the above, (6.7 to 6.10), with none received and all appointments were unanimously confirmed by Council, 'en block'.	
7.9	Finance Committee – appointed in accordance with SOF Rule 5a: President, Trustees, Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer; Golf & Shooting organisers; supper and sport supremos; OF coordinator at the College; Chair of Young OFs Committees included in the Finance Committee. Objections were invited, with none received and all appointments confirmed.	
7.10	Independent Examiner: Ensors, as appointed by the College in accordance with the SOF FC agreement, signed in 2013 and addended in 2018.	
7.11	Resignations from Council - Keith Handley, (S47-53) Vice President, former Hon. Treasurer and one time London Supper Organiser requested that he wished to step down from Council in March 2020. In accordance with Rule 4c the President accepted the resignation and formally recognised the huge contribution that Keith has made over the years to the running of the Society, stating how grateful he was for everything that Keith has done.	
7.12	Elections were concluded and comments invited by the President, with none received.	
7.13	New Hon OFs: The President continued with the following nominations, as proposed at the January 2020 Council Meeting under Rule 3 (3) (a) and (b):	
7.13.1	Rule 3(3)b - Hon OF Nominations – under the 10-year revised rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audrey Tovey, with 10 years' service in October 2019, as the Head Swim Coach for both schools. 	Hon Gen Sec

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calin Pirvu - Teacher of Mathematics; • Chris Tripp – Domestic Assistant (Prep School); • Daley Thomson – Maintenance painter; • Julie Calvert (nee Tye, married last year) – Matron at FCPS for 30 years, 6 months; and • Terrie Calvert, (Ms. Calvert is no relation to Julie Calvert), with 12.5 years’ service as the FC Fees Assistant, reporting to the HR/Finance team. 	
7.13.2	Objections were invited by the President, with none received and all Hon OF appointments under Rule 3(3)a were unanimously confirmed.	
7.13.3	Chris Essex commented that it was a pleasure to see non teaching staff included in the selection each year. The President agreed and confirmed that all personnel are cleared and approved in advance by HR and the SMT at FC, as part of SOF due diligence.	
7.13.4	<p>Rule 3(3)a - Hon OF Nominations: The following were proposed to be put forward for Hon OF status, in recognition of outstanding service to either the School or the Society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chaplin, Rev. Brynn Bayman; proposed by Norman Porter and seconded by Richard Sayer. • Tom Caston – Dep Head, Pastoral, heavily involved with the Society with the Moreau Scholarship process; proposed by Norman Porter and seconded by the President. • Neil Jackson – support to young OF Golfers; proposed by Andrew Wright and seconded by David Turnbull and Norman Porter. 	Hon Gen Sec
7.13.5	All three nominations were considered in detail at the January 2020 Council Mtg. Objections were invited by the President, with none received and all Hon OF appointments under Rule3(3)b were unanimously confirmed.	
8.0	Any Other Business	
8.1	Date of next AGM confirmed as 27 th March 2021 at FC.	
8.2	John Ellerby offered the President his congratulations for all he has done over this past year and for stepping up to take on a 2 nd term as President. He offered a vote of thanks on behalf of the Society for all the hard work he has done to date.	
	The President closed the meeting at 3.05pm.	

Signed:
President

Date: 2020
Name: Simon RC Dougherty

Issued by Ruth Elwood (Hon. General Secretary) **Email:**
honsec@oldframlinghamian.com

Appendix 1

Deaths 2019/2020:

- Professor **Nick Rutter (S55-63)**, died on 8th June 2019. Nick was an eminent pediatrician;
- **Peter Liell, S52-58**: Peter was a longstanding Trustee and Vice-President of Society who died on 10th June 2019;
- **John Guttridge (R54-59)**: who died on 14th June 2019; and
- **Ruby Graham, Domestic Bursar 1971-1988** who died on 15th June 2019.
- **Richard Anthony Jenkinson (K69-76)**: was diagnosed with cancer in March and died on 17th July 2019 aged 62.
- **Douglas Thomson's Wife Dorothy**: who died from cancer on 16th September 2019. The President wrote to Douglas to offer sympathy on behalf of the Society.
- **Dominic Church, (G96-02)**: Recently deceased and young OF. Gabby Church (sister) is to write a short piece for The Framlinghamian.
- **Michael Alec Cooper (G45-48)**, who died on 5th May 2018 aged 86.
- **William Greenfield Lack (K58-63)**, who died on 30th May 2019 at the age of 74.
- **Neil John Brenton (K60-64)**, who died in October 2019.
- **James Peter Leeding (R46-51)**, who died on 1st November 2019 after increasing health problems over a number of years. He was 85.
- **Murray Gordon Munro (R58-65)**, died on 12th November 2019 in New South Wales, Australia aged 71.
- **Mullie Borrett (Hon OF)** and widow of Norman Borrett, who died on 17th November 2019, just 2 months short of her 100th birthday.
- **John Buck (G42-47)**, who died on 13th December 2019. His son in law, David Pardey is to provide obituary details in due course.
- **John Charles Rippon (R50-55)**, who died in 19th December 2019.
- **John Edwards (K45-55)**, on 12th January 2020.
- **June de Whalley**: Widow of Philip de Whalley, former Housemaster (Garrett) and Physics Teacher at FC. June died on 21st Jan 2020 following poor health.
- **John Russell Simpson (K 32-36)**, who died in his sleep between 3rd and 4th April 2020, at the age of 101. Helen Chapman, John's daughter is to write a SOF obituary in due course.