



21st May 2009

Dear fellow Old Monktonians*,

We are writing to consult you about proposed changes to the Old Monktonian (OM) Club structure and with this letter solicit your vote to commence developing these changes after our AGM (being held on OM Sunday on 21st June).

Why is change necessary?

The OM Club Executive Committee, after much deliberation, has come to the conclusion that the current structure and working set up of the Club need to be modified to ensure that we can effectively serve the much changed profile of Old Monktonians. We fear that, unless the structure and set up of the OM club adapts to the 21st century environment we live in, its continued existence is in jeopardy.

Current set up

The Club was set up many years ago to create and foster goodwill among fellow Monktonians – past, present and future – by creating, building and sustaining a lifetime of connections with each other and also with the School. Since inception, the Club has changed very little and we must recognise that currently it does not meet the expectations of its members.

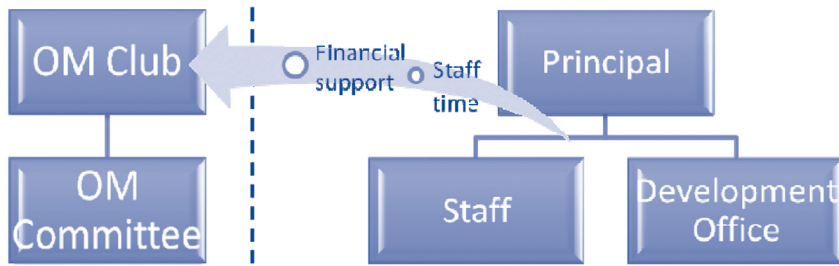
Although structured to be independent from the School, it has and continues to rely significantly on the generosity of the school both in terms of finances (estimated conservatively in excess of £25,000 p.a.) and for administrative support. Without this support, the Club would undoubtedly cease to function.

The functioning of the Executive Committee also relies on the enormous and generous commitment from a few volunteers who give of their own time and expertise to organise events and ensure communication links are maintained. However, finding volunteers to assist with running the Club has become progressively harder over recent years to the extent that certain longstanding members of the Committee, who have devoted thousands of hours to the Club, have become irreplaceable.

(continued overleaf)

*throughout the letter reference to Old Monktonians also includes Old Clarendonians

The current structure of how the OM club functions today can be summarised as follows:



The proposal

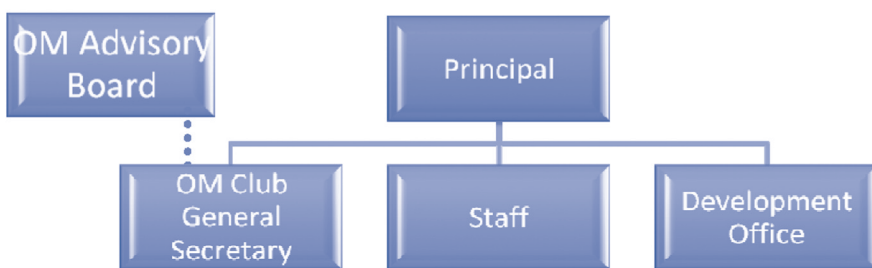
The Committee has diligently debated all the issues and challenges facing us and has come to a conclusion of what needs to happen to ensure the club not only survives, but flourishes in the 21st century and meets the ever increasing expectations of OMs.

The proposal is not presented here in detail. Our thoughts are still at a conceptual stage and there is much work to do in defining roles and funding issues, but we believe that the four key changes below will not only ensure that the club survives, but will also substantially enhance the service provided to OMs.

The four key changes proposed, which will be developed further after a successful ballot, are:

- 1 A new post – General Secretary of the OM Club – will be created. This new role will provide a dedicated resource for the Club to ensure it is able to enhance the service it provides to you in terms of support, communications and events.
- 2 A small group of OMs made up of volunteers and led by a President will act as an Advisory Board to the General Secretary and represent OMs' interests.
- 3 The Club will become an integral part of the School, so that Monkton past, present and future are all under the direction and leadership of the Principal and Board of Governors.
- 4 All leavers of the school will become OM Club members automatically. (Under current arrangements parents can choose to opt their child out.)

The new structure would look like this:



This proposal has been presented to the Principal, Richard Backhouse, and other key people involved with Monkton Combe School and received enthusiastic support.

We, the OM Club Executive Committee, believe these changes will dramatically enhance the service and benefits the Club can provide to you and look to your positive support to enable us to develop this proposal. Please use the voting form attached and return your response in the Freepost envelope enclosed or vote online as described on the attached form, by 13th June 2009.

Sincerely yours,

The OM Club Committee

Matt Wheeldon (89) [President], **Roberto Dionisio** (70) [Vice-President], **Richard Fothergill** (79) [Chairman], **Barney Cue** (59) [Hon Secretary], **Chris Rogers** (55) [Assistant Secretary], **Hedley Smith** (63) [Treasurer], **Peter LeRoy** (62) [Editor Gazette], **Emma-Jane Taylor** (OC 85), **Chris Tufnell** (06), **Neil Clifford** (76), **Julian Bewick** (Hon).

OM Club Members

VOTING FORM

To be returned* to :

Caroline Bone, The Alumni Office, Monkton Combe School, Monkton Combe, BATH, BA2 7HG

or preferably, to keep mailing costs down, vote online via the OM Club pages of the school website www.monktoncombeschool.com.

The closing date for voting is 13th June 2009 after which votes will not be considered.

The proposals you are being asked to vote on are conceptual at this stage. Voting in favour of the committee's proposals would allow progress towards the goal of safeguarding the existence of the OM club and making it more effective in the future. We hope that you will be prepared to vote for or against change, rather than the detail that will be presented to members at a later stage. Please mark one of the boxes below with an X.

I support the committee's proposals

I do not support the committee's proposals

Comments on the conceptual proposals:

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.....
.....

Your Contact Details

Name:.....Maiden name if applicable:.....

Address:.....

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Email address:.....

Telephone number:.....

Year of Leaving MCS/Clarendon:.....

If you would like further information regarding the proposals, please do not hesitate to contact one of the following OM Club Committee members:

Matt Wheeldon (89): 01225 832272

Richard Fothergill (79): 01225 832806

Emma-Jane Taylor (OC 85): 01460 259540

Julian Bewick (Hon): 01225 723583

*Overseas OMs will only be able to vote online as the Freepost envelope is for UK use only