

**STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013 AT LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE**

**MINUTES (Amended)**

- 1. Welcome & Apologies:** Chris Huffam welcomed 32 full member Sternians and 8 guests back to LWC for the 2013 AGM. Special thanks were made to Mike Sims who organised a reunion dinner for some of those who left in the 1950s/60s locally on the eve of the main reunion. Apologies were received from Chris Worsley (committee member), Clare Datta, Wally Sanders, Ron Burlingham, Vicky MacLeod (committee member), Guy Butchers, Philip Rance and Richard Spokes.
- 2. Minutes of the 2012 AGM:** These were amended in order to clarify various points of confusion and to ensure a true reflection of the conversation at the 2012 AGM surrounding issues of voting at the AGM. Chair Clare Datta stated that if Graham was successfully voted in then the Committee would walk. The votes took place and Graham received 9 votes for and 9 against with the remaining abstentions. The confusion came when Ed Walker's vote was included. The Rules and Constitution are unclear as to whether the Chairman has a vote in their own right as well as a casting vote. John Bacon proposed and David Wagstaff seconded. The minutes were approved at the AGM, with 22 votes for and none against. These amended minutes are featured on the website.
- 3. Births, Deaths & Marriages:** Chris Huffam read a list of announcements received since the last AGM. Full lists are available on the website ([Births](#), [Deaths](#) & [Marriages](#)) or from the Sternians Office. Particular mention was made of the death of Laurence Brown, former Sternian archivist, who made his last appearance at the 2012 AGM.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Scott Harrower (Hazelveare 1998), a chartered accountant with his own practice, prepared the accounts. These had been independently examined and signed off by Ben Forman (1993 School). The accounts presented to the AGM comprised actual figures for the years to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012 and 2011 and budgets for 2012, 2013 and 2014, with costs allocated to individual items within the broad categories (reunions, etc.). It was agreed that it would be helpful to show budgets against the actual figures as a comparison, which had not happened in the past. There were questions on the differences in the analysis of accounts and budgets, in particular relating to the Annual Reunion. Attention was drawn to Rule 7e), requiring the accounts to be prepared on an accruals basis and including a balance sheet. The AGM voted against approving the accounts. The Chairman agreed that the accounts would be re-presented on the required basis and with the analysis restated, for viewing on the website and for approval at the 2014 AGM.
- 5. Trust Fund Report:** Hugh Podger, Trust Fund Chairman, updated members on the current strengths of the fund, which has an annual income of £22,500. The Trust Fund differs from the Foundation in that it supports pupils whose families have fallen on difficult financial times by contributing to fees in critical examination years. A detailed

account can be found on page 44 of the Sternians magazine, while the full accounts and balance sheet are available from Hugh on request. Hugh thanked existing donors but expressed his disappointment at the low response to appeals for one-off or regular donations.

Hugh paid special mention to the outstanding legacy of £2.1 million left to the Foundation by Jessie (a former Gosden girl) and William Flower.

Hugh's report can be found on the Sternians' website.

**6. Chairman's Report:** Chris Huffam talked about his interesting year as Chair and his focus on looking to the future of the Association. In particular, Chris requested that more Sternians get involved with the Association as 'Ambassadors' who can help with various activities or functions, without needing to dedicate as much time as if they were full committee members. Chris's hope is that Sternians from across different year groups and with different skill sets could get involved. There are some key areas that the Sternians want to do more of in 2013 and beyond and these will require additional support, made up of working groups of ambassadors, committee members and the college. The main areas to concentrate on include:

- **Reunions**

- We will look into how to make reunions more accessible to Sternians across all age groups and geographically. In particular, we will investigate *when* to hold reunions, *where* and *how many* we should hold in order to ensure that we are engaging with a broader mix of Sternians
- We will aim to *hold more regional reunions*. To that end, Colonel Philip Bates based at the Edinburgh Garrison has offered to help drive a regional reunion for those based near to Edinburgh (or interested in travelling)
- Many at the AGM asked questions of what can be done to encourage a broader range of generations of Sternians to attend reunions and become more involved with the Association. This is a particular focus of the Sternians committee for 2013

- **Database**

- Some Sternians have expressed their desire to access a database of contact details for other Sternians and to make this accessible via the website
- A sub group will look into the feasibility and legality of this
- Ron Lafferty, LWC IT Manager, has offered to help with this

- **Website**

- We want to make the website more dynamic, so that it is up-to-date with the latest news, photos and upcoming events
- We will create a working group to look into this and appeal for anyone with experience or interest to get in touch. Stephen Lister, a Sternian (School 2008) employed at LWC, will help manage the website on a day to day basis

- **Archives**

- The history of the College is at the very heart of what the Sternians is about and it is also hugely important to the College. Unfortunately, the Sternians' current archivist has had to step down and the Association needs help in filling this role
- The Sternians' Association also needs to find £2000 to fund the costs of archiving a collection of materials and will be working with the College to look into what can be done

**7. Voting:** Chris Huffam stated that this is the first year that Sternians have been able to voting electronically or by proxy. It should be considered a trial and will need refinement. The votes received electronically will be counted and added to the votes received at the AGM and made public shortly, including votes for Officers for Election.

Mike Sims expressed his concern that the new system of voting needed more in depth information on the items being voted on to enable Sternians to make an informed vote,. Also that those putting their names forward for Committee positions should have their background experience and what they plan to achieve if elected.

**8. Any other business:** Two additional proposals were made to the AGM:

**Proposal One:** Mike Sims proposed a motion that (Seconded by Tim Hodges) the Executive Committee undertakes urgent measures to achieve:

- a. 1) Consistently high turnout at annual and group Reunions
- b. 2) A modern, up-to-date Sternian Website where members can interact in real time with one another, with the Committee and with the School
- c. 3) A comprehensive and up-to-date on-line email list of ex-pupils that is accessible to members so they can contact each other spontaneously
- d. This General Meeting further requests that the Executive Committee reports back to the membership on progress through Link and at the 2014 AGM

The motion was carried with 45 votes for, one against, three abstentions, including proxy votes

**Proposal Two:** Mike Higham proposed a motion that (seconded by Mike Sims):

- e. This General Meeting endorses the re-instatement of Graham Barnes as Member of the Executive Committee with the express role of formulating a set of Performance Goals related to Reunions, the Website and other social media as communication vehicles between Sternians, and between Sternians and the College; and a Strategic Plan for achieving those Goals within the next 3 years. Such Goals and Plan to be submitted to the Membership for approval by the 2014 AGM

The motion was carried with 45 votes for, one against, three abstentions, including proxy votes

Laurie Kinney made a formal – but light-hearted – apology after graffiti was found in Long Sutton church, dating back to the '50s, where he had clearly written his own name on the wall behind the church organ.

Brian Reeve commented that the members represented at the AGM were totally unrepresentative of the age distribution of the membership, and that that problem needed to be addressed.

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### **Notes outside the AGM minutes**

#### **Voting Results 2013 after collating all the results after the AGM - 188 Sternians voted**

R&C Section 2 - To support and Promote the LWC Foundation	<b>186 for / 1 Abstain / 1 not marked / 0 Against</b>
Section 7 (h) under finance - Expenditure over £500.....	<b>178 for / 6 Abstain / 2 not marked / 2 Against</b>
Section 6 (i) Under Administration - Chairman has only a casting vote	<b>140 for / 7 Abstain / 2 not marked / 39 Against</b>
Section 4 Officers and Committees	
Section (b) iii to read Treasurer to be appointed.....	<b>158 for / 5 Abstain / 3 not marked / 22 Against</b>
Section © Other officers.. Archivist and up to three additional Committee members	<b>135 for / 8 Abstain / 2 not marked / 43 Against</b>
Officers due for re-election: 188 Members voted	
Scott Harrower	<b>171</b>
Guy Butchers	<b>143</b>
Chris Worsley	<b>160</b>
Vicky Macleod	<b>154</b>
Staff Liaison Officer: Edward Walker	<b>174</b>
Vice-President: Richard Kimber	<b>171</b>

A comprehensive folder is held in the Sternians' office which includes all the voting forms electronic, postal and those filled out at the AGM. This is available if required for verification by a nominated Sternian. The updated Rules and Constitution will be put on the Sternians' website.

Note: In the 2012 AGM this new voting method allowing all Sternians to have a vote was passed 19:1