

STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14TH July 2014 AT LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE

MINUTES

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** Chris Gibbs welcomed 23 members and 3 guests to the AGM and introduced himself as Chairman. Chris attended LWC 1988-95. He thanked all present and particularly Ed Walker, Chris Huffam, Graham Barnes, Gill Kelly, Clive Butler, Hugh Podger and Ben Forman for making the day happen. Apologies were received from Chris Worsley who has recently moved to Madrid and stepped down as a Committee Member.
- 2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM (published in The Sternian 2013):** Chris Gibbs, Chris Huffam and Graham Barnes reviewed the original set of minutes earlier in the year. Hugh Podger pointed out that the minutes published in the Sternian different to those today. Also that for item 8: Voting Results 2013, only votes at AGM should have been counted under the constitution. The rules/constitution had been updated on the website. Chris Gibbs agreed that the minutes be amended to reflect Hugh's comments and published on the website.
- 3. Births, Deaths and Marriages:**
Chris Gibbs had a son, Alfred born 17/01/14

Notified Deaths since last AGM

Sir Humphrey Prideaux

Melvyn Wibberley

Joseph Panes

Cameron Gay

Eric Mitchell

Raymond Ward

Nigel Riley

David Bullock

Gladys Hill

Henry Stangroom

Ian Madelin

Colin Prout

Alan Barrow

Julian Hibberd

Hugh Podger said a few words about Sir Humphrey who did so much for the school. Hugh knew Sir Humphrey and his wife Cynthia well, both personally and professionally and felt great personal sadness, as did many others, at his passing. Sir Humphrey served as Governor of LWC from 1963, then as Chairman from 1966. In 1972, he invited Hugh to be Governor and they served on the Board together until Sir Humphrey retired in 1993. Sir Humphrey remained very much in touch with the school and in latter days met with the Headmaster on a weekly basis. He opened the Prideaux Building named after him and more recently attended the Thanksgiving Service for the Foundation at Long Sutton church. Tim Prideaux, Sir Humphrey's son, joined the board of Governors in 1999, continuing the family relationship with the school. Hugh emphasised that the school owes so much to Sir Humphrey. A memorial service is being held on 3rd July and a tribute page is on the website.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Chris Huffam thanked Hugh Podger, Clive Butler and Ben Forman for their help with the accounts. Chris had used codes created by Hugh back in 2011 and slightly expanded upon so that any expenses/income should have the correct code for easy annual comparison. There should be a draft 2014 accounts by October and final accounts in December to be published on the website and featured in the Sternian. An expanded version of the accounts is available by email on request.

The new LWC Bursar, Richard Gammage, is a good supporter of the Sternians. LWC made a grant of £17k for the year.

Donations vary yearly. The income from the Reunion is down on the previous year due to 2012 being Foundation year (over 200 people attended compared with 80 this year).

Ron Burlingham and Bob Hunt used to organise the Bournemouth reunion but Gill Kelly now assists which is why it's been included this year.

Sports – it was agreed that the Sternians 7s, netball, hockey etc events were flagship events to bring Sternians together and that £85 contribution for a team could be made. As long as funds are available, it was agreed that Sternians should cover Health and Safety elements of events e.g. for St John's Ambulance.

There was a decrease in funds for regalia. In 2012 we drew down funds from Paypal and from a previous year. There is now tighter control of reconciling and we are drawing down on Paypal every 3-6 months.

The Sternian – there was an increase in postage costs, especially to overseas (it costs an average of £5 average to post). There was also extra printing costs for voting forms.

The Link – there was a decrease in costs. In 2013 there was just an Autumn issue (not two as in previous years). The Link will be electronic in future therefore the cost will likely be around £450.

Reunions – There were only 80 attendees in 2013 compared with over 200 in 2012 due to the latter being Foundation year.

London Reunions – incurred greater costs in 2013 although only one event was held compared to two in 2012. Expenses for a Christmas event have been included in that figure which should have been split out.

Sports – new hockey kits were purchased for men/ladies teams which equates to the cost difference.

Regalia – the costs are down. We need to ensure like for like year on year.

Trust Fund – A large amount has been passed on. Ben Forman will reconcile what has been received and reported in the annual accounts.

Website – costs have increased due to the voting set-up and more amendments.

Storage bins, binders, pop-up banners and new poles for the flags have also been purchased.

Admin – the postage costs have increased, although photocopying costs have decreased. Chris Huffam will check what is contained in 'other'. In 2012 it included AROPS subs, travel and flags for LWC. Clive Butler and Hugh Podger requested a better handle on the figure for regalia stock take, income and cost.

£500 liability was specifically earmarked for the Trust but did not get paid across until year end.

Future projects – 2014/15 new website which will cost in the region of £4,500-£5,000

A member raised the question of whether there was a policy for going out to tender in order to keep costs down. Chris Huffam explained that several companies had been approached for the website and that Gill Kelly takes at least 2 quotes on print costs every issue.

Brett Morrell asked if there was merit and economy of scale to be had by linking the support, maintenance and development of the website with LWC's website. It was explained that in the past, the costs had not worked out but the committee will review this.

Hugh Podger raised the question of whether to change the financial year as it currently coincides with the school, but not with the AGM. Chris Gibbs said he would be in favour of running the accounts on this basis. It could not be passed at the meeting but the committee would work towards this.

The Sternians accounts show a surplus which is fortunate, but there was concern that we were not paying for teams as we should be encouraging teams to come back and play.

Tim Hodges and members made a vote of thanks to Chris Huffam for his work and for all he had done as Acting Chairman over the past year.

The Accounts were accepted.

- 5. Trust Fund Report** – Hugh Podger reported on the Trust Fund. Page 46 of the Sternian featured a report to December 2013. Grants were at a fairly low level but higher than in 2012. £24k was raised via the Lawrence Brown legacy and investment income.

In 2014, we received several legacies. Gladys Hill bequeathed £6k. Roy Jehu left 6% of his total estate to the Sternians Trust Fund. £9k has been received from the estate of Ellen Dunn, although the remaining amount is still in dispute. The amount is slightly uncertain but it could be quite significant once the estate has been settled.

£11k donations have been received. Hugh appealed for regular contributions as only 60-70 people regularly give.

He confirmed the STF were making grants to the end of summer Term 2014 to enable pupils to stay in order to complete their exams.

Hugh mentioned a couple of grant cases– one where the parents of a pupil had sadly separated and father had been made redundant, so the Trust made a grant; another where there were two pupils from the same family who have been given provision for 6th form.

The Trust supports up to about 1/3 of fees. Donations and legacies go into the capital of the fund and only the interest is spent on grants. Edward Walker, Secretary of the Trust Fund, addressed members explaining that it was his roll to help assess applications for grants.

Hugh mentioned that fundraising for the Trust Fund had not been very successful last time so they would not be making a special appeal, but a joint legacy appeal with the Development Office.

Staff/Sternian liaison – Edward Walker reported on recent events. 1984 Reunion – Andreas Stavrinides organised this and 35 attended with several former members of staff. It was a great day and showed the bond between pupils and school. The 2004 reunion was to be held the following weekend. Gill Kelly and Edward Walker were the link for Sternians who want to organise reunions.

He was pleased to report that more pupils have attended the Sternians sports events than in recent years.

Edward gave a vote of thanks to Gill Kelly for the great work she does for the Sternians.

Edward mentioned that the school was changing to a 2 week timetable where Saturdays would be for enrichment rather than lessons. He made a request for more Sternians and parents to come and talk to pupils about careers. More Sternians are attending careers fairs and parents have been helping out. The pupils have been really excited about the fairs and the chance of work experience.

- 6. Chairman's Report** – Chris Gibbs told members that he had been shadowing Chris Huffam since December 2013 so he had had a good amount of time to get a feel for things and to meet with members.

He had attended the President's Drinks and there was a lot of passion for the Association. Everyone has one common link – we all attended LWC and so want to do good for the school we care so passionately about.

The Association is reaching some of the older generations but we need to reach out to the younger, social media connected generations. Networking, mentoring, and career development are clear ways of doing this.

The Association is continuing to evolve – our focus will be on reaching a younger generation and recruiting more committee members to enable us to do this.

- 7. Survey Results** – Graham Barnes reported on the recent survey about the Sternians. 200 replies were received out of around 5,500 members. 40% of replies were from the over 65 age group, mainly males but girls only attended from 1988! Respondents were predominantly from South of England but the majority of pupils are from these areas.

The main findings were that:

- People are keen to be connected with the school and peers,
- People are keen to have trips/tours of the grounds
- 13% wanting to participate in sporting activities
- 60% had attended events
- 30% saw the Association as an opportunity to network for business, smaller numbers sought a mentor while at college/Uni.

- 76% wanted help with getting in touch with contemporaries
- a large percentage wanted more fundraising activities

The committee will be working on Sternian mentoring opportunities and help with business.

Ten survey respondents had said that they would be interested in joining the committee. The committee would like to identify 2 people from each year who could act as contacts. Available posts include the archivist, registrar, 2 reunion organisers and secretary. It was recognised that the committee needed to be increased, possibly to 12.

8. Officers for Election –

Chris Worsley and Vicky Macleod stepped down from the committee.

Chris Gibbs was elected as Chairman

Chris Huffam was elected as Treasurer

Edward Walker was elected as Staff Liaison

Graham Barnes was elected as member for Strategy and Special Projects

9. Election of Vice Presidents

Richard Janaway and Fergus Livingstone were re-elected.

10. Any Other Business

There being no other business, Chris Gibbs thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.