

**Sternians' Association AGM**  
**Lord Wandsworth College 18<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** Clare Datta (Chairman) welcomed the members. 22 members attended the AGM, although this number altered slightly as people came and went. Apologies were received from Bill Preece (Vice-Chairman) who was unavoidably absent. His apologies were accepted.
2. **Minutes of the 2010 AGM:** These were available for inspection. They were approved by the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman when possible as an accurate account of the meeting.
3. **Births, Deaths and Marriages:** The Chairman read a list of those Sternians deceased and notified since the last AGM (to be published in *The Sternian*). Tom Shedden announced that Alison Bradley had recently given birth to a daughter, Charlotte. Hugh Podger notified the meeting that several Sternians had attended the funeral of Malcolm Ruddock who died in April.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Tom Shedden (Treasurer) presented the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to the meeting. The meeting thanked the Treasurer, Chairman and Gill Kelly (Sternians' Administrator) for the enormous amount of work they had put into ordering the Accounts. An Accountant has been employed to assist with the management of the accounts.

It was reported that costs, particularly postage, have risen significantly. Out of an annual budget of £17k, £12k is spent on the magazine and postage of it and the Link. It was agreed that this is unsustainable. Catering costs for events have also increased by £800, however, it was agreed that this figure would be checked with Gill Kelly. The committee are looking at cutting costs. It was confirmed that there will be no increase in budget from the College.

Several options for reducing the cost of producing the *Sternian* and *Link* were discussed: a) to source sponsorship for printing, b) paid for advertising in the magazine, c) to employ a mass postage system (a potential company has been sourced. There would be an upfront cost of £1k but it would reduce costs slightly), d) to produce and distribute the magazines electronically. A small, independent printing company has been employed to try and reduce costs. Laurence Brown offered to give the name of another company.

The Association pays one third of the total cost of the *Link* (the cost for delivery to Sternians) and the full cost of *The Sternian*.

A discussion ensued about producing the *Sternian* in hard copy vs electronic. It was generally felt that there is a fondness for hard copy but that to move towards some electronic distribution would be prudent financially and would be to 'move with the times'. However, it was acknowledged that there was a risk of people not reading a "pdf" magazine. It was suggested that there be an 'opt in' or a charge for receiving a hard copy. Peter Booth told the meeting that many AROPS members are very impressed with the magazine.

It was agreed that the committee should explore whether revising the format of the magazine would reduce costs and to ensure that sponsorship proposals include all options, including advertising would be looked at.

It was clarified that the £400 costs for the website was for ongoing development and maintenance.

Concern was raised at the amount spent on regalia and catering. It was agreed that the committee will check and produce a breakdown of costs for regalia and catering.

A query was raised over the Barclays Account – the ‘contingency fund’. The meeting was assured that the signatories list had been updated, Tom Shedden being the first signatory - the second is yet to be decided. It was agreed that the Association will decide how best to use the funds at the 2012 AGM.

It was clarified that the Association does not have charitable status and so does not need to submit Accounts to the Charity Commission. The Chairman will investigate whether the Association is answerable to any other body.

It was agreed that the accounts be ratified at a later ECM, once they have been independently examined. A working group comprising Hugh Podger, Ian Ellis, Clive Butler and Bob Hunt will assist the Treasurer and Chairman in finalising the Accounts.

**5. Trust Fund Report:** This was presented by Hugh Podger (Trust Fund Chairman). The Accounts to Year End 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 had been independently examined and submitted to the Charity Commission. 5 pupils received a total of £17,800 support from the Trust Fund. It was reported that the Trust overspent on income but was prepared to do so within defined limits. One beneficiary has been carried through to this year. The Trust tends to sponsor pupils in a critical year (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Form), the usual reason for assistance being financial or family breakdown. The Trust has suggested that families might wish to donate funds in return, if and when their financial situations recover (they would receive tax relief).

The Trust was bequeathed £86k in 2010 and is due to receive approx. £40k this year.

The ‘Appeal’ attracted 35 monetary sponsors out of 6,000 ex-pupils which was slightly disappointing. A few Sternians have promised legacies. Hugh Podger appealed for ongoing sums.

It was clarified that the split of fixed vs equity investments is decided by the Board of Trustees. Capital is divided into two parts: 65% equities and 35% fixed. Equity investments increased from £17k to £20k.

The Chairman thanked Hugh Podger for his efforts.

**6. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that there has been a full program of events the past year including the Sternians' Hockey Day, re-launch of the website and the magazine in February, the first South West Reunion (25 attended), the April Bournemouth Reunion (attended by the Headmaster), the May London Reunion (attended by the Chairman of Governors, the Headmaster and his wife), the May Sutton Reunion – December was the only month without a Sternian Event!

The Sternians' Dinner has been delayed to 2012. A working group will meet next week to discuss the 26 May 2012 Founder's Day celebration.

The Chairman thanked the Headmaster for his tremendous support.

A vote of thanks was proposed for Gill Kelly for her hard work as Sternians' Administrator.

**7. Officers for Election:**

Staff Liaison: Peter Booth stood down. Ed Walker, a former Housemaster of Hazelveare and Tutor of Sutton, was proposed by Ian Ellis and seconded by Tom Shedden and elected.

Vice-Chairman: Bill Preece was proposed by Chris Huffam and seconded by Ian Ellis and re-elected.

Secretary: Vicky Macleod was proposed by Chris Worsley and seconded by Chris Gibbs and re-elected.

Treasurer: Tom Shedden was proposed by Ian Ellis and seconded by Chris Gibbs and re-elected.

Regalia: Chris Huffam was proposed by Vicky Macleod and seconded by Chris Worsley and re-elected.

Reunion Secretary: Chris Gibbs was proposed by Graham Barnes and seconded by Chris Huffam and elected.

Sternian Editor: Vicky Macleod was proposed by Tom Shedden and seconded by Hugh Podger and elected.

Website Manager: Graham Barnes was proposed by Mike Higham and seconded by Clive Butler and re-elected.

Registrar: Graham Barnes had resigned the post. Graham Barnes was proposed by Mike Higham and seconded by Charles Elsdon and re-elected.

Chaplain: This position remained open.

## **8. Election of Vice-Presidents and other members:**

Ian Power is coming to the end of his Vice-Presidency, but has already become an honorary member. Richard Janaway was proposed by Ian Ellis and seconded by Mike Higham and re-elected as a Vice-President. Peter Booth was proposed by Clare Datta and seconded by Ian Ellis and elected as a Lifetime Vice-President. Fergus Livingstone (Headmaster) was proposed by Hugh Podger and seconded by Clive Butler and elected as a Vice-President.

## **9. AOB:**

A member queried the committee's suggestion that there is no longer a need for a Web Manager role due to the extra administrative support that the committee now receives. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that a review of all Committee roles will be conducted and examined in preparation for discussion at a possible EGM.

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It was suggested that the AGM is poorly attended and needs to be reinvigorated. It was agreed that the committee will explore ways of increasing attendance.

It was agreed that the Constitution be amended to include notice of ex-parents being Sternians.

It was suggested that the committee look at the possibility of the Sternians' Association having more than one of the eight pages in the Link.

Laurence Brown proposed a vote of thanks to Peter Booth who was retiring for his immense contribution and support of the school and Association.