

**STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday 26th May 2012 at Lord Wandsworth College**  
**Minutes**

**1. Welcome and apologies:** Clare Datta (Chairman) welcomed the members. 39 members attended the AGM. Apologies were received from Scott Harrower (Treasurer), Richard Gribble and Melvyn Sanders who were unavoidably absent. Their apologies were accepted. The Chairman also asked those present who were not full members to identify themselves for the record.

**2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM (published in *The Sternian* 2011):** 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 the Sternians which had been notified since the last AGM (to be published in *The Sternian*).

**4. Ratification of Constitution:** The Chairman gave thanks to all who had submitted comments on the draft revised Constitution. Special thanks was given to Hugh Podger and Clive Butler for the time and effort they had invested.

Concern was raised over additional point 3(b)vi (the right of full members to vote by proxy, either electronically or by post) in terms of the additional financial cost of postage and the extra time it might take to count postal and/or electronic votes.

It was noted by Hugh Podger that the proxy votes could be sent out with the Sternian magazine which would avoid additional costs. Ed Walker stated that a member of the College staff could be called upon to count the votes if need be. The Chairman put forward the view that this type of voting is a way to engage with the younger Sternian and is the best possible democratic position for the Association in the future.

The inclusion of point 3(b)vi in the Constitution was agreed by 19 votes for, 1 against.

Peter Anderson proposed the inclusion of supporting the Foundation as one of the Aims and Objectives of the Sternians' Association. He voiced that the school has come on leaps and bounds but that he was disappointed that only 10% of pupils are Foundationers.

The inclusion of a specific reference to supporting the Foundation in the Aims and Objectives was agreed by majority vote. It was agreed that the Committee draft the wording for approval at the next AGM.

The inclusion of Section 3(d)ii which refers to the rights and privileges of Former parents was agreed by all.

The additions to point 4(b) were approved by all.

The inclusion of point 6(h) was passed by 18 for and 1 against.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

In the Treasurer's absence, the Chairman gave an overview of the accounts and budget. Members were informed that Scott Harrower came on board as Treasurer in July 2011 and that he is a Chartered Accountant with Morgan Stanley.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Hugh Podger and other members of the accounts working group which were Hugh Podger, Clive Butler, Ian Ellis and Bob Hunt for their help with the accounts after the last AGM. A fully coded system has now been implemented and is working well.

The 2012/13 budget showed a deficit of £3,286 which is mainly due to an increase in Royal Mail costs. However, Gill Kelly has sourced a mailing house which has offered significant cost reductions on this year's Sternians magazine (£4,900 budgeted, reduced to £2,700). The budget will therefore be revised based on these figures.

Ed Walker (Staff Liaison Member) reported that he had spoken to the Bursar about the budget for next year and the need for more funds to accommodate the rise in costs. He explained that unfortunately, the Bursar could not increase the funds but will bear this in mind for future.

### **6. Trust Fund Report**

Hugh Podger (Trust Fund Chairman) explained to members that the Trust Fund supports pupils whose families have fallen on difficult financial times by contributing to fees in critical examination years (fifth form and upper sixth).

Hugh thanked Paul Richings, Peter Booth, Ben Forman and the other Trustees for their contribution over the past year and thanked Gill Kelly and Kate Chernyshov, (Development Director) for all of their behind the scenes support.

Hugh reported that the current fees vary from £18,240 for a junior day pupil to £27,090 for a senior full boarder. He highlighted that this is high compared with the Trust Fund's yearly interest of £18,100, which is used to give assistance.

The Trust Fund has grown considerably over the past year largely due to the £135,000 legacy received from Arnold Cutner which increased the annual return by £5k (one third).

A recent plea for donations resulted in only 8 regular annual donors in addition to the 62 donors already secured. This added just under £400 to the investment income. Hugh appealed for further regular supporters.

Hugh pointed out that the accounts shown on page 48 of the recent Sternian magazine were in fact incorrect due to a printing mix-up.

Ed Walker voiced his sincere appreciation for the Trust Fund having seen several pupils assisted through the scheme.

A member queried whether donations are tax deductible if your place of living is the USA. Hugh Podger confirmed that UK based tax payers could gift aid their donations but suggested that any members living outside of the UK check the rules with the local taxation office.

Chris Worsley asked whether it is possible to target those who had previously received support from the Trust Fund for donations. Hugh Podger confirmed that this is something that the Trust Fund Board of Trustees would like to do, but plans for it had been put on hold in the changeover of staff from Peter Booth to Ed Walker. This approach will be revisited.

Nick Brittain asked whether it is better to place funds with the Trust Fund or the Foundation. Clive Butler, a member of the Trust Fund Board of Trustees, admitted he was slightly biased, but suggested that as the Trust Funds assists parents who have fallen on hard times with the margin of fees, that the School actually ends up better off this way.

A vote of thanks was given to Hugh Podger and the other members of the Trust Fund Board of Trustees for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

## **7. Chairman's Report**

As ever it has been a very busy year for the Sternians' Association as a whole and for its many members.

The Chairman gave a brief summary in a chronological order starting from the first event after the last AGM.

The Committee have met more regularly this year which has brought greater benefits and involvement. Gill Kelly, the Sternians Administrator, continues to do a wonderful job organising so many of the events.

Hugh Podger suggested that anyone wishing to get involved with the mountaineering club should contact David Minnikin.

A vote of thanks was given to Gill Kelly (Sternians Administrator) for her hard work over the past year.

A vote of thanks was given to Clare Datta (Chairman) for her sterling efforts as Chairman over the past three years in office.

## **8. Officers for Election**

Chairman: Clare Datta was standing down as Chairman having served the maximum three year term. Chris Huffam (A700), who left LWC in 1970 and has been involved in the Sternians' Executive Committee for the past 12 years as Regalia Officer, was proposed by Chris Gibbs, seconded by Hugh Podger and elected.

Vice-Chairman: Chris Gibbs was proposed by Brian Reeve and seconded by Chris Worsley and elected.

Secretary: Vicky Macleod was proposed by Hugh Podger and seconded by Ed Walker and re-elected.

Treasurer: Scott Harrower was proposed by Nick Brittain and seconded by John Bacon and re-elected.

Staff Liaison: Ed Walker was re-elected.

Trust Fund Representative: Dudley Lewis was re-elected.

Independent Examiner: Ben Forman was elected.

Archivist: Guy Butchers was elected.

Regalia: Chris Huffam was re-elected.

Chris Worsley was re-elected as a General Member of the Executive Committee. The outgoing Chairman reported that several other Sternians had voiced interest in joining the Committee and that they may be appointed in time.

Registrar: Graham Barnes was proposed by Brian Reeve and seconded by David Wagstaff, but not elected to position with 9 votes against, 9 votes for and the remaining votes abstentions.

### **9. Election of Vice Presidents and other members**

The following were voted by all as Vice Presidents:

Ed Coetzer, Head of Sutton House, was elected.

Dave Machin, was re-elected.

Soma Singh, was elected.

Ed Walker, was re-elected.

### **10. Any Other Business**

Brian Reeve queried the costs of the website. The outgoing Chairman explained that these was for maintenance and website support. Brian asked about timescales for uploading news and information, as he was keen that photos from Charles Elsdon appear on the site and had noticed that they were not there as yet. The Secretary offered to check that this upload happened asap.

Bob Hunt proposed a vote of thanks to Gill Kelly and Kate Chernyshov for all of their wonderful work, particularly in a year in which Gill had been recovering from illness.

The Bournemouth Reunion raised £295 for the Sternian Trust Fund and £270 for the Foundation.

The outgoing Chairman thanked members for their attendance and contributions and closed the meeting.