

Sternians' Association AGM

Lord Wandsworth College 19th June 2010

1. **Welcome & Apologies:** Peter Booth, Sternians Liaison, welcomed the members. 32 attended the AGM. Apologies were received from Clare Datta (Chairman), Bill Preece (Vice-Chairman), Vicky MacLeod (Secretary), Tom Shedden (Treasurer). In their absence Peter Booth had agreed to chair the AGM.
2. **Minutes of the 2009 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:** Peter Booth announced that Clare Datta had recently given birth to a daughter. He then read a list of those Sternians deceased and notified since last AGM (to be published in The Sternian).
4. **Treasurers Report:** Peter Booth passed on a message from the Treasurer that the Accounts were in the process of going through an external audit in order to satisfy the Inland Revenue. They would be published as soon as possible.
5. **Trust Fund Report:** Due to Hugh Podger's unavoidable absence, Clive Butler gave the report on the Trust Fund's year. He reported that in 2009, over £16,000 was spent on grants helping towards the fees of six pupils. As foreseen, the economic situation had led to a greater demand for grants and coupled with a reduction in investment income of over £3,000, primarily due to lower interest rates, expenditure had exceeded investment income by nearly £6,000. The deficit in 2010 was expected to be at a similar, if not higher level.

Turning to the Trust Fund Appeal, Clive went on to say:

‘Over the years whenever the school has launched an appeal, as a Founder myself, I have always been ready to do what I can to support such appeals and I am sure that many of you would have responded similarly. However, for whatever reason, I never felt quite the same urge to respond to the Trust Fund appeals - possibly because rightly or wrongly I didn't feel that fee-paying parents demanded quite the same level of support. Now however, having been closely involved with the Trust Fund over a number of years, I have seen the sacrifices that many parents make to give their children the education and start in life that I received for free.

That is when times are good - when times are bad and the parents are beset with financial problems as a result of ill-health, redundancy, business failure and so on, leading to a drop in the family income, such parents go to incredible lengths to keep their children at Long Sutton. As the Headmaster has said in his message ‘At such times the support and pastoral care that the College provides becomes increasingly important’, and if the Trust Fund can help out at such times, it is incredibly valuable not only in ensuring that part of the families financial worries are alleviated but it also ensures that the fear that the pupil's education might be

interrupted at a critical time in their lives, is removed. I would therefore encourage you most earnestly to respond to this Appeal as generously as you can.'

6. The Chairman's Report: Peter Booth reported briefly on behalf of the Chairman. She had made numerous visits to the College to discuss Sternian matters notably accompanied by the Vice-Chairman, Bill Preece, to meet the new Headmaster as well as Gill Kelly, Kate Chernyshov and Peter Booth. She had found Fergus Livingstone very supportive. She had also attended various events at the College as the Sternians Chairman.

7. Election of Officers: Peter Booth informed the meeting that the existing officers were willing to continue in their posts. They were proposed by Stewart Edwards and seconded by members. The meeting agreed the nominations.

8. Vice-Presidents: Three Vice-Presidents came to the end of their terms. Graham Barnes proposed and Bob Hunt seconded the re-election of Tony Eysele, and Richard Kimber. Graham Barnes then proposed and Bob Hunt seconded that Ian Kerr be appointed a Lifetime Vice-President on the occasion of his retirement, in recognition of his work on the teaching staff of the college over forty years and his support of the Sternians over the years. These proposals were carried unanimously.

It was pointed out that last year Ian Power was to be made a Lifetime Vice-President but that former headmasters were normally made Honorary Members. It was agreed that it was not the intention to set a precedent in Ian's case and that he should be made an Honorary Member. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Honorary Members: It was also proposed by Bob Hunt and seconded by Graham Barnes that Stewart Edwards' great contribution to the Sternians for his work as Chairman, on the database and as co-creator of the website, should be recognised by appointing him an Honorary Member and that Mike Featherstone's work at the College as Head of Junior House for twenty-two years should likewise be recognised. This proposal was carried unanimously.

9. AOB: Peter Booth read from the report by Charles Elsdon about his Electronic Archive work restoring transparencies and prints. He added that the search for a suitable means of storing electronic archive material with a suitable search facility was continuing. Stewart Edwards and Graham Barnes were assisting. Andrew Eborn offered assistance with a system of digital storage for Sternian videos and DVD's which might possibly be able to go on-line.

Charles Elsdon added to this and spoke further about the work he had been doing.

Peter Booth informed the meeting that a plaque had been placed on Quercus in Sheephouse Copse to replace the original that had been there some time ago. The plaque records the fact that the ashes of Sir Daniel Hall are buried there.

Peter Booth explained the plan of the Sternians Executive Committee to extend the Sternians community to include former parents. This reflected the considerable involvement of parents in the life of the College which had grown in recent years as present pupils were drawn from an area much nearer to Long Sutton than in the past. Parents had a great fund of good will towards the College and already run the 'Friends of LWC' who organise social events which

also raise some funds that go towards the College. Former parents would be able to attend some functions. The Sternians would be leading the way amongst Alumni Associations by this move which would have no financial implications since communication would be electronic. Parents would have no voting rights.

After some discussion, Andrew Eborn proposed that former parents should be made Associate Members. This was seconded and the proposal carried unanimously.

Bob Hunt announced that the Bournemouth reunion had raised £350 for the Foundation and £350 for the Trust Fund. He also gave news of the condition of Stan Davies.

The meeting ended at 10:55 am.

Peter Booth
Staff Liaison Member