

STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20TH June 2015 AT LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE

MINUTES

- **Welcome and Apologies:** Chris Gibbs welcomed 21 members and 2 guests to the AGM. He thanked all present. Apologies were received from Alan Dyson, Richard Gribble, Andy Pritchard, Mike Haydon, Andy Baker and Samantha Leach (nee Barr).
- **Minutes of the 2014 AGM (published in The Sternian 2014):** These were available for inspection. They were approved by the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman as an accurate account of the meeting.
- **Births, Deaths and Marriages:**

Notified Marriages since last AGM

Laurie McCall (2004 Hazelveare) and Becky Evans (2003 Gosden)
Ryan Wilks (2009 Hazelveare) and Zoe
Lawrence Richards (2008 Summerfield) and Jeanne
Patrick Knight (2004 Sutton) and Carrie
Rowena Morgan (2008 Park) and Richard Trayling

Notified Deaths since last AGM

Anthony Westwell 0886 (16th August 2014 aged 75)
Paul Lubbock 0961 (6th October 2014 aged 73)
Thomas Hills (31st October 2014 aged 26)
Edney Gibbs 0363 (28th November 2014 aged 89)
Simon Knight C433 (5th December 2014 aged 39)
James Calver 0285 (21st December 2014 aged 92)
Patricia Simcox (nee Gutteridge) ZA40 (11th January 2015 aged 87)
Stanley 'Polly' Payne 0323 (11th February 2015 aged 91)
Roland Burdge 0632 (2nd March 2015 aged 83)
David Hutton 0810 (8th May 2015 aged 80)
Joseph 'Steve' Pennington A272 (6th June 2015 aged 70)

- **Treasurer's Report:** Chris Huffam thanked Hugh Podger, Clive Butler and Ben Forman for their help with the accounts.

An expanded version of the accounts is available by email on request.

Income in the year was £24,016 which was broadly stable year-on-year (2013: £23,825). Tight control over expenditure had resulted in a net surplus of £7,541 (2013: £2,410).

Income:

Grant from LWC – LWC again made a grant of £17k for the year.

Donations from individuals – There was an increase of almost £500, primarily due to some generous one-off donations.

Reunions – Income from the various reunions was slightly up on the previous year, with the revival of a South West reunion which was well-attended.

Sports events – No income was generated from sports events arranged by the Association because it was agreed not to charge Sternians to participate in flagship events such as Rugby Sevens.

Regalia sales – Income fell to £670 compared to £902 in the prior year, highlighting the need to re-launch a suitable range that appeals to all ages.

Expenditure:

The Sternian – The production of the Sternian magazine is the largest single expense for the Association. The publication cost of £8,768 was stable year-on-year (2013: £8,630). Andy Smith asked if there were savings to be made by moving to a solely digital version of the Sternian, as with The Link below. In discussion, the meeting was strongly of the opinion that the current printed format of the magazine had significant value as a widely accessible means of promoting both the existence and the activities of the Association through its hard copy circulation to the broad target community of Sternians, and through them, reaching their families and connections. Special thanks were expressed to editor Gill Kelly for a consistently fantastic magazine.

The Link – The cost to publish the e-Link (formerly The Link) fell to £272 (2013: £1,752). Now in an electronic form, the only costs were for a contribution towards setting-up the software to produce it.

Reunions –

Annual reunion: Costs of £2,721 were incurred (2013: £1,843), due to increased numbers attending and higher catering costs associated with that. Overall, a loss was incurred on the event due to print costs on voting stationery, the Sternians' survey documents (£871) and full colour postcard invites (£119). We have repeated the postcard invites which work well, but will use more cost effective ways of conducting surveys and voting in the future.

South West reunion: Costs of £70.60 were incurred (2013: £nil as no reunion was held), primarily on LWC staff travel costs to run the event.

Bournemouth reunion: Costs of only £29 were incurred (2013: £114) because the event is self-funding except for LWC staff travel costs.

General: Catering costs were incurred for the 1984 and 2004 year group reunions.

Sports – Costs decreased to £754 (2013: £1,165). Current year costs comprise first aid cover, catering, prizes and trophies for rugby and hockey events. The purchase of hockey kit in the prior year was not repeated in 2014.

Regalia – Cost of regalia sales are matched to sales made. Key rings were purchased just before year-end and are included in stock. When orders are received for out of stock items/sizes, these are processed on an ad-hoc basis which keeps the stock figure down. The aim is to deplete stock levels ahead of the planned re-launch of the range.

President's drinks – Catering costs were slightly higher year-on-year.

Donations payable – Donations to the Sternians Trust Fund comprise subscriptions paid to the Association that are onward donated to the Sternians Trust Fund, together with 50% of donations received at the Bournemouth reunion. The other 50% was donated to the Lord Wandsworth Foundation.

Website support costs – The benefits are now being seen of using a local website company. The Sternians office updates sections of the website which further lowers the cost.

Administration costs –

Marketing: In the prior year, costs of £971 were incurred for pop-up banners, archive storage boxes and bindings for past copies of the Sternian and Sower. These costs were not repeated in 2014 and hence £nil reported.

Photocopying: No recharge was made by LWC for copy charges in 2014, compared to a charge of £241 in the prior year.

Postage: Costs were lower. These fluctuate year-on-year depending on activities.

Prizes and presents: Costs of £349 were incurred primarily in respect of Cotterill Cup prize vouchers and gifts to Sternians and others associated with the Association to mark special occasions.

The prudent control of costs leaves the Association with a healthy credit balance of £26,770 as at August 2014. In response to Hugh Podger, who asked how this money was budgeted to be spent, Chris Gibbs updated the meeting on two key projects.

- Redesign of the Sternians' website – While the current website provides an apparently modern and accessible route to the Association, the maintenance of the site is tortuous, with the result that updates can be subject to unwanted delays. After seeking quotes from three companies, the current provider has been selected to proceed with the project to revamp the website and the processes associated with its maintenance. Chris Huffam advised that £6,000 has been budgeted to cover this activity.
- Sternians' Archives – Although recent and future Association and College documents and photographs can be expected to be held and available in digital format, a significantly large and valuable collection of earlier material is held in the Sternians' Office at the college. In order to preserve and build on the considerable earlier work of our late archivist Laurence Brown and others, and in the process to make this readily available to any Sternian with access through the website, the Association has started to explore options to digitise these archives. We have approached a company that specialises in this work for similar organisations, and we have been quoted £6,000 to set up this digital archive.

The meeting voted unanimously for the Association to proceed with both of these projects as discussed.

The Committee also plans to make donations to both the Sternians Trust Fund and Foundation out of surplus funds.

Finally, Chris Huffam sought approval from the meeting to change the accounting period to end on 31st December. This had the merit of presenting a more current view of finances than is currently the case, as well as bringing the Association financial year in line with that of the Trust Fund. The change would be effected in two stages, with the current financial period to run for sixteen months from 1st September 2014 to 31st December 2015, and thereafter to cover the period from 1st January to 31st December each year from 2016 onwards.

The motion to make this change was moved by Chris Huffam, seconded by Hugh Podger, and carried unanimously by those present.

The Accounts were accepted.

- **Trust Fund Report:** Hugh Podger reported on the Trust Fund. Page 46 of the Sternian featured a report to December 2014. Grants were £4k higher than in 2013.

Legacies have been a welcome and increasingly important source of income in recent years. A total of £44k has now been received from the estate of Roy Jehu. Other recent bequests

have included £6k from Old Gosden girl Gladys Broad (nee Hill), and £9k from the estate of the widow of Sydney Dunn. It is anticipated that there will soon be a targeted appeal to Sternians to consider this method of supporting the fund.

- **Chairman's Report:** Chris Gibbs updated the meeting on his first year as Chairman, with a schedule of events that keeps him busy beyond the AGM and Annual Reunion.

He was encouraged by the volume of feedback received on the 2014 Sternian magazine, which has generated valuable responses from members. The Association is also establishing a presence in the social network arena, with increasing Facebook shares and Twitter retweets.

In recognition of the amount of work required to maintain contact with the maximum number of Sternians, Chris Gibbs has been actively seeking recruits to fill vacant slots on the Committee. Those efforts have been successful to the extent that a number of candidates have come forward for the approval of the AGM – see Officers for Election below. In response to Hugh Podger's observation regarding the vacant Vice-Chairman slot, Chris Gibbs reported that it was planned to fill this position when the right candidate is available.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Chris Huffam (Treasurer), Ben Forman (Independent Examiner), Hugh Podger and Gill Kelly for their considerable efforts on behalf of the Association throughout the year.

School Liaison – Ed Walker (Staff Liaison member) offered a valuable update on the year.

- The recent timetable changes, with 50 minute lessons (previously 35 minutes) and with Saturday to be used for 'enrichment' activities rather than formal lessons, were regarded as a great success.
- He commended the work of our outgoing headmaster, Fergus Livingstone, in widening LWC's network with the community, and in attracting students from further afield. At the same time he endorsed the incoming head, Adam Williams, as someone well-suited to the ethos and culture of LWC.
- He reported that the school had been rated highly for its sports provision in a recent inspection.
- He thanked Gill Kelly for her pivotal role in support of the Association.

- **Officers for Election**

Chris Huffam was re-elected as Treasurer

Edward Walker was re-elected as Staff Liaison

Graham Barnes was re-elected as member for Strategy and Special Projects

Bruce Buckland was elected to the Committee

Bill Preece was elected to the Committee

John Bacon was elected to the Committee

In addition, the meeting was advised that Charlotte Greer-Read and Sean Edwards were to serve as Ambassadors.

- **Election of Vice-Presidents and other members**

Fergus Livingstone was created an Honorary Member

David Machin was re-elected Vice-President
Soma Singh was re-elected Vice-President
Eduard Coetzer was re-elected Vice-President

- **Any Other Business**

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