

STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14TH July 2018 AT LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** John Bacon welcomed 15 members and 3 guests to the AGM. He thanked all present. Apologies were received from:-

Derek Archer	973
Don Archer	974
Graham Birkett	A008
Peter Booth	President
John Brierley	A079
David Cheston	658
Simon Clements	A983
Barbara Cunningham	ZA12
Sam Dunster	A324
Chris Gibbs	C606
Chris Gratwick	A581
Malcolm Harvey	A213
Frank Luscombe	253
Steve Lutener	C335
Sid McDouall	A186
Bill Preece	B978
Robin Tunbridge	993

2. **Minutes of the 2017 AGM (published in The Sternian 2017):** These were available for inspection. They were approved as an accurate account of the meeting.

3. **Births, Deaths and Marriages:**

Notified Deaths since last AGM

Brenda Ansley nee Davies ZA93 (May 2017 aged 89)
Eric Bailey 765 (30th May 2017 aged 81)
Lord Wigram (LWC Governor 1966-76) (23rd May 2017 aged 101)
Derek Eves 813 (18th June 2017 aged 81)
Derek Bartram A027 (25th June 2017 aged 78)
Sheila Marshall nee Lish ZA60 (26th September 2017 aged 90)
Richard Skinner 777 (28th September 2017 aged 81)
Sydney Rowsell 488 (10th October 2017 aged 89)
Roger Grove-Smith, Academic Staff 1953-1959 (27th October 2017 aged 90)
Roger Davies (former Academic Staff 1967-1994) (20th December 2017 aged 74)
Mark Whittow B045 (23rd December 2017 aged 60)
John Samways A026 (25th December 2017 aged 78)
Andrew Work A620 (10th January 2018 aged 68)
David Peters A338 (14th January 2018 aged 72)
Bernard Lovelock 644 (6th April 2018 aged 85)
Robin Salter 797 (28th April 2018 aged 81)
Ivor Protheroe 265 (22nd May 2018 aged 95)

Information on births and marriages where provided is published annually in The Sternian magazine.

4. Treasurer's Report: Chris Huffam thanked:-

- Ben Forman for checking the figures and drawing them up in a presentable format.
- Hugh Podger for looking at the Accounts and making comments prior to the AGM
- Gill Kelly for the detailed work of recording all the Receipts and Payments as they happen forming the basis for the accounts.

Closing Unrestricted Funds were £28,620, an increase of £8,828 arising from the hugely generous legacy from Joseph 'Steve' Pennington (A272 Sutton House, 1958/1961 – see obituary in The Sternian 2015). The legacy is to go towards a project that benefits future Sternians.

Income

Grant - There was a modest increase to the Grant from LWC to £16,767. The Sternians Office submits an annual budget for approval by the LWC Bursar.

Donations – This varies from year to year depending upon Sternians generosity.

Reunions – Income from sales of reunion tickets relate to lower numbers attending reunions in 2017.

Regalia – Sales of regalia come from On-line sales and reunions.

Expenditure

The Sternian magazine – General increase of costs for 2017 for postage and production costs.

Reunions -

Annual reunion catering costs increased.

London Over 60s reunions – Committee to look at the ticket costs and venues for future reunions. A number present were happy to pay more for a ticket to help to cover costs and minimise losses for the event.

Sports Events -

Rugby Sevens – Increase in First Aid charges

Cricket – LWC charges for the catering not previously charged

Regalia -

Introduced Ts and rugby shirts to range

Reordered Cuff-links, Sternian Ties

Includes order for Leavers' pens

Action: Treasurer to look at the Opening and Closing stock figures along with the sales versus cost of sales. Areas to look at include how Gifts and Presents are tracked through and the valuation used on closing stock versus sales.

Donations – Balances paid to the Trust and Foundation are a mix of passing on personal Sternians requests and monies paid to the Trust by the Association. A request was made to publish a more detailed breakdown of the figures.

Donation to the War Memorial project -

As agreed at the 2017 AGM, the Association contributed £1,500 towards the project. It was mentioned that there may be on-going maintenance costs each year to keep the Memorial in good condition. The Committee will investigate and consider if contributions towards maintenance are required.

Administration costs -

General expenses included various smaller items such as Archive hard drives for photos

Approval of the Sternians' Accounts for the 12 months to 31/12/2017.

Proposed: Andrew Greenwood

Seconded: Graham Barnes

Accepted unanimously.

These accounts are published and available to be viewed on the Sternians' Website.

- 5. Trust Fund Report:** Paul Richings commenced by summarising the role of the fund and the evolving demand for its assistance. Page 46 of the Sternian featured 2017 estimated figures based on results to end September 2017. The number of pupils assisted in 2017 exceeded those supported in 2016, and the total of grants was the highest to date.

The primary objective of the Fund is to ensure that pupils who are being educated at Lord Wandsworth College do not lose that enduring benefit through a change in financial circumstances.

Assets were reported as exceeding £900k for the first time, representing an increase of 9% during the year, and a rise of over 70% over the last five years. These assets generated income of nearly £33,000, which once more exceeded the levels of previous years. Grants totalling £21,500 were provided for 10 pupils during the year.

The Trust Fund's capital has accumulated over many years thanks to a combination of ongoing donations from a relatively small number of individual donors and, more recently, a number of legacies. The trustees are hugely grateful for the continuing generosity of its supporters. Whereas donations and legacies have built up capital, grants are made out of investment income. Over the period from 2006 to 2017, regular donations totalled over £90k, with additional one-off donations accounting for another £30k. However, the significant increase in the Trust Fund's net assets over the period has been driven in large measure by a number of substantial legacies, in total almost £250k.

Paul concluded by thanking the Trustees and Chris Bellairs, the Trust Fund Independent Examiner, for their continuing contribution, both at regular meetings and when considering applications, on occasion at short notice.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** John Bacon reviewed his first year as Chairman, having taken over from Chris Gibbs last year. Events over the last year included:

Sports events – cricket, netball, hockey, rugby 7s, golf – these continue to draw a strong attendance of people playing and watching, and as ever provide a great attraction to younger Sternians

Over 60s lunch, Farmers Club, London – our fourth such gathering

President's Drinks in November – our opportunity to meet new staff and to introduce them to the Association. Sadly, this was the final Sternians outing for former Classics teacher and tremendous supporter of the Association, Roger Davies.

Bournemouth reunion – always well-attended

London drinks – successfully restored to calendar in 2018 in April. Super turnout from over 40 Sternians, with surprise guest Lorraine Chase. So successful that another is planned for 11th October 2018.

Careers Fair – again, excellent support from a mix of Sternians and parents, to help pupils develop their plans for their life in work

5th Form Mock Interview morning – new to the LWC Careers calendar, an excellent career-related initiative consistent with our desire to assist pupils with business links

Many thanks to Sharon Allmark, LWC Head of Careers and Higher Education, for her energy and enthusiasm in making these events happen.

War memorial – Following timely prompting from LWC Development Director Sam Corfield, immediately after our last AGM, amazing generosity from contributors, including Sternians,

helped to push the fundraising effort over the target. That enabled the construction to proceed in time for the dedication of the memorial at the 2017 Remembrance Day service. The Memorial was designed, developed and project managed by LWC pupils as part of their 'Pupil Voice' initiative, and was notably unveiled by our own Johnny Johnson.

The school would appreciate the Sternians support in other fundraising ideas and using any contacts we have, so expect to hear more about that in due course and if you have ideas or contacts then please come forward.

Obviously a major difference this year has been the absence of the Annual Reunion. Nobody underestimates the value or the significance of this gathering to the Association, but with the extensive building work it was not possible to safely accommodate our gathering at a time when the college was making significant adjustments simply to perform its essential function of educating the pupils. We look forward to a fantastic reunion in the new facility in 2019.

Archives – all the past issues of the Sower and the Sternian (including the most recent 2017 edition) are online, dating back to the 30s. A small amount of other material is there. It is intended to continue to upload future versions of the Sternian, and the Sower should it resume publication following a hiatus since 2012.

The Committee had been relatively quiet this year, meeting only once in November, and it is planned to reinvigorate the team in the coming year.

John thanked the committee, college and the Association for their continuing support.

7. School Liaison – Edward Walker again highlighted some aspects of his work as the Staff Liaison and Development link between the Association and the College.

Ed commended the work of Adam Williams and his Senior Management Team, and particularly of our Alumni Relations Manager, Gill Kelly, in support of the Association throughout the year.

He reported a healthy demand for places at LWC, with pupil numbers growing.

And Edward is constantly looking at the potential to introduce new events to the Sternians/ College sporting calendar, building on the success of the recently revived Sternians Golf Day, held this year at the Windlesham Golf Club.

Possible opportunities could arise for 10k runners and/or Triathlon devotees.

8. Officers for Election

Chris Huffam was re-elected as Treasurer

Edward Walker was re-elected as Staff Liaison

Bruce Buckland was re-elected to the Committee

Bill Preece was re-elected to the Committee

Charlotte Greer-Reed was re-elected to the Committee

9. Election of Vice-Presidents and other members

No Vice Presidents were due for re-election. The Chairman took an action to consider potential new VPs.

10. Any Other Business

Two items were raised by Graham Barnes:-

1. *I would like to propose re-instating computer access to the Sternians Database through the web site and another edition of Who's Who to be produced. I am very much of the view that the Data Protection Act allows this as it was given the OK twice in the past. GDPR does not alter this.*

For this item, LWC Development Director Sam Corfield was on hand to provide a full and detailed response.

“The College has invested in a new database to store Sternian information separately to current pupils and parents. This enables the College and The Association to manage communications more effectively and in accordance with GDPR. This database is only accessible via the Development Office – keeping Sternian data as secure as possible. The cost comes out of the Development Office budget - the Association is not expected to pay any of the annual costs of this database. For Sternians to contact each other directly, we would need to invest in a web-portal such as Graduway where individuals can manage their own contact preferences. This type of web-portal is particularly useful for business networking and career opportunities, both within the membership and with current pupils. However, this is an expensive annual cost. The Development Office did ask for it to be included in the 2018/19 budget but it was rejected this year. We will continue to ask for it, but as it is several £thousands annually, it may be a while before we could launch such a service.

With regards to producing a new Who's Who, this would only be possible to produce by first writing to all members and gaining their consent for their information to be published. We could do this. There is a reasonably significant cost involved in mailing all Sternians (both producing the mailing and postage) and, of course, in managing the responses and then producing the book. This is not something the College would approve budget for. However, if the Sternians' Association feel it is a priority they could look at covering the cost themselves. However, the consent return rate is likely to be low and as such it wouldn't be the book you might be hoping for. Also, the details would be out of date quite quickly. The Development Office (including the Sternian Office) are happy to put people in touch with each other with both parties' consent. We get requests, probably monthly, for this already – it is all part of the service.”

The meeting appreciated this clarification of the issues, and it was accepted that the existing processes for contact and communication between Sternians would continue for the present.

2. *I would like to ask that when photos are included in The Sternian there is information next to them showing when/where/what/who they refer to as one always gets in newspapers and magazines.*

In discussion the meeting determined that the presentation of information regarding the subjects of photographs appearing within The Sternian magazine should continue to be handled as currently, under the watchful eye of our excellent editor, Gill Kelly.

There being no further business, John Bacon thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.