

**STERNIANS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
15th JUNE 2019 AT LORD WANDSWORTH COLLEGE
MINUTES**

1. Welcome and Apologies:

John welcomed 39 members and 4 guests to the AGM. He thanked all attendees for their commitment to this key element of the Association's year. Apologies were received from: Bill Preece, Ed Walker and Dudley Lewis.

2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM (published in The Sternian 2018): 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

David Owen (former DT Teacher 1986-2006) (12th May 2019 aged 73)
Michael Gregovich B215 (28th April 2019 aged 58)
Michael Edwards 442 (30th March 2019 aged 90)
Richard Bracher 359 (26th March 2019 aged 94)
Brian Fowler 787 (21st March 2019 aged 82)
Toby Moyle B589 (14th March 2019 aged 56)
Chris Webster B189 (27th February 2019 aged 58)
Simon Roe A375 (23rd January 2019)
Michael Higham A084 (7th January 2019 aged 75)
John Dyson 903 (16th December 2018 aged 80)
David Evans 786 (8th December 2018 aged 82)
Peter Lilley 369 (6th December 2018 aged 93)
Simon May D040 (5th November 2018 aged 36)
Roger Bootle-Wilbraham (Lord Skelmersdale) A382 (31st October 2018 aged 73)
Frank Holmes 429 (25th September 2018 aged 92)
Nicholas Brittain 871 (16th August 2018 aged 79)

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

4. Treasurer's Report: Chris Huffam

Chris began by thanking Ben Forman for his help in formatting the accounts into a presentable shape.

Chris then explained how the approach to funding of the Association had evolved.

In the early years of the Association, Sternians subscribed to the Association to provide funds used to meet the running costs.

More recently, parents were billed a contribution to the Association, and LWC provided a Grant against a budget (2017 £16,767). The value of this grant fluctuated depending on the number of students on roll. Any unspent balance was paid over to the Sternians' Association.

In today's process, each year the Sternians' Association and the Development Office submit a Budget to cover agreed activities (2018/19 £23,740). Once approved by the Bursar, invoices are paid by LWC as submitted. Only submitted invoices are paid. If costs come in under budget, then these funds are retained by LWC.

Donations and Subscriptions received from Sternians are held in the Association's bank account until spent or donated by the Association.

Copies of the 2018 accounts were handed out, and Sternians were reminded that these accounts are published on the Sternians website and will be printed as usual in the next edition of The Sternian magazine.

Income:

Overall income was £13k lower this year, due to the Legacy from Steve Pennington of £10,000 received in 2017, and the absence of the main reunion in 2018.

Expenditure:

Reoccurring costs fell by £4.8k again due to having no main reunion and in 2017 the Association donated £1.5k to the War memorial. This left a small surplus of £501.00 for the year.

Under Non-reoccurring costs were £1,474.00 for the GDPR mailing, and £1,302.00 for the Roger Davies memorial costs.

The overall result was a deficit of £2,275 for 2018.

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2018

Cash at bank was £24,663 which included the £10,000 from the Steve Pennington legacy. Closing unrestricted funds at year end were £26,345.

Questions from the floor:

Hugh Podger asked about the Bournemouth costs which appeared very high. Chris explained the figure included a donation to the Trust Fund and Foundation of £224.50 each. Hugh suggested that such donations should appear separately. Chris confirmed this would happen in the future.

Hugh also asked why the foundation had not covered the cost of *The History of LWC* book (£136.00), and why the income from sales of the book were shown in income as 'Other'. The income and cost related to this book will be processed differently in the future.

Approval of the accounts

Proposed - Graham Barnes Seconded - Paul Cameron-Taylor

Unanimously approved.

5. Trust Fund Report: Paul Richings

Paul began with a brief recap for those less familiar with the role of the Trust Fund. Following its inception almost 60 years ago, the initial years typically saw the award of modest grants to go towards the cost of musical instruments or field trips. As resources have grown, the Trust Fund has been able to make more substantial grants in recent years, almost exclusively towards school fees.

All candidates for support are recommended by the Headmaster, and the financial case must be accompanied by academic and general merit as well as contribution to the life of the

College. Following input from the Bursar, it is then up to the Trustees to consider whether financial support is merited, and if so, how much. The expectation is that a grant from the Trust Fund should make the difference between a pupil having to leave or being able to continue their education at the College, usually at a critical point in their school career.

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 2018, regular donations amounted to almost £100k, 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.

Turning to 2018, the Trust Fund saw its net assets at the year-end falling below the prior year's record level, as wider economic uncertainty adversely affected the valuation of its investments, which ended the year just over 6% down on the year, at £845k. Unrealised investment losses almost completely offset the significant unrealised gains of the previous two years. However, in spite of this paper loss, the value of the Fund remains some 50% higher than 5 years ago, and investment income has held up well. Investment income in the year reached almost £34k, and exceeded 2017's record high. This has allowed the Trust Fund once again to support 10 pupils during the year, matching the historic high figure achieved in 2017. Grants of almost £22,000 were provided to these pupils during the year. The Trustees have made commitments that will account for grants totalling £25k in 2019, rising to almost £32k next year.

The 10 beneficiaries during 2018 include Foundationers, where the Trust Fund was able to step into the place of other charities that would not continue their support into the 6th form, as well as a range of other pupils whose parents encountered difficult financial circumstances.

Mindful of the many small donations that have built up over the years, the Trustees carefully scrutinise all applications, ensuring that donations are put to the best possible use: not every application is approved.

The bulk of the Trust Fund's assets comprise the investment portfolio. Investments are allocated across dedicated investment funds for charities run by three investment managers. During 2018, the unrealised reductions in investment valuations that were mentioned previously, amounted to £78k, but the investments continued to yield around 4%.

Regular donations during the year, including tax recovered, were slightly down at just over £7,000. This includes £725 from the Sternians Association and Bournemouth reunion. The remainder represents regular receipts from about 60 individual donors, to whom Paul reiterated sincere thanks.

Paul concluded by thanking the Trustees and Chris Bellairs, our Independent Examiner, for their continuing contribution, both at regular meetings and when considering applications at short notice; their contribution is much appreciated.

6. Chairman's Report: John Bacon

John reviewed his second year as Chairman, with his second AGM and report. He noted that in the eleven months since our last AGM he has attended sixteen Sternian and LWC functions.

Events over the last year included:

Various sports events – cricket, netball, hockey, rugby 7s, golf, football (new) – these continue to draw a strong attendance of people playing and watching, engaging lots of younger Sternians.

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

President's Drinks in November – where Bursars past and present almost outnumbered Chairmen past and present. This was an opportunity to meet new staff and introduce them to the Sternians' Association.

Bournemouth reunion – another excellent event in May, attended yet again by many regulars.

London drinks – this event is starting to become an established part of the Sternian year, we have held two of these evening sessions at Champagne Charlies near Charing Cross. The timing and location is convenient for many Sternians living or working in and around the capital, and we are usually able to count on a strong turnout from younger Sternians, as well as some current parents.

No South West reunion in 2018, however, the next one will take place on Thursday 26th September 2019 in Tormarton.

Careers Fair – again, this event garnered excellent support from a mix of Sternians and parents, to help pupils develop their plans for their life in work. The day would not have been complete without Bruce Buckland's 3D printer producing the most realistic dinosaur claw you are ever likely to see, using architectural concepts.

5th Form Mock Interview morning – another opportunity for Sternians to help current students. It was amazing to see how confident and focussed the pupils are in these sessions. Both of these initiatives, driven so well by the tireless Sharon Allmark, are consistent with our desire to assist pupils with business links. The events are a real credit to Sharon, the LWC Head of Careers and Higher Education.

War Memorial – John was honoured to follow in the footsteps of the last surviving Dambuster, Johnny Johnson, when he inaugurated the Memorial in 2017, to lay the wreath on behalf of the Association at last November's Remembrance Day service. Well done to the pupils that came up with the idea, and to the financial support from so many Sternians and others that made it possible. We have a memorial that is an appropriate tribute to those from the school that have given their lives in the service of our country.

Speech Day – Claudia Gwinnutt gave an inspiring and confident talk to the school. Sir Peter Coulson in 2018 was a hard act to follow, but Claudia showed that we have strength and depth within the Sternians community, and students will no doubt remember the address for years to come.

Christmas Carol Service – two performances were needed in December to accommodate the whole school in Odiham Church. This was a tremendous logistical exercise for Adam Williams, the Headmaster, and his team. It was a splendid preparation for the festive season.

John also discussed the general administration of the association. The committee has had three meetings since the last AGM.

He informed the AGM that Bill Preece had resigned due to work and family replacements, and that he had not yet been replaced.

The committee also welcomed a new member, James Marshall, as the archivist, a role that has been vacant for many years.

John reported on recent efforts to update the Association Rules and Constitution, and thanked Hugh Podger for his input. In his earlier report, our Treasurer outlined how the financial processes have changed in recent years, and these changes should now be reflected in the Constitution. The committee will work with Sam Corfield to build upon the good work so far, with an aim to present a revised Constitution for approval at the next AGM.

7. School Liaison – Edward Walker

Ed had prepared notes that were read by Sam Corfield in his absence.

The address began by stating that it had been another very busy year in the Sternians Calendar.

A decision has been made to make the September Sternians rugby and netball a biannual event as it has been harder in the last couple of years to attract Sternians.

There are plans to have a formal opening of the new first XV rugby pitch at the start of next term by inviting a Sternians team to play in a tournament with the College. More details will follow later in the summer.

Hockey at LWC goes from strength to strength and we are delighted that many Sternians go on to play University and club hockey. This is also the case with cricket.

Both the Sternians cricket and hockey matches against the College proved to be a great success this year. The Sternian cricket team were victorious against the college and the school defeated the Sternians in the hockey.

In addition, the College is going from strength to strength and is in the middle of a large capital spend.

Ed encouraged everyone to visit the wonderful new dining room, Julyans, which has been transformed. Visiting parents on match days are not only impressed by LWC's outstanding match teas, but also the Orangery area within the Julyans dining room. This project unfortunately led to there being no reunion in 2017, but the results were worth it.

The staff room above Julyans has been redesigned and is now a central hub for staff to use. It even has its own bar. Building work on the new science centre will start next year and will create an inspirational space for learning.

In addition to sport, Sternians are deciding to connect with the college even more in the form of careers advice. The Careers fair and interview days have proved to be very successful this year.

London drinks, Presidents drinks and year group reunions only show that the Sternians are thriving and many want to help.

This summary of the year is being read on Ed's behalf as he was attending an induction day for new school. After 24 very happy years, he is heading to Repton School for a new challenge, and he explained he had never planned to spend his teaching career in one school.

Ed expressed his gratitude to LWC, and how it has been wonderful to him and his family. He said he will certainly find it strange to start again and will certainly miss the wonderful Sternians he has met over the years.

Ed stated that we live in a challenging world and he encourages as many Sternians as possible to reach out and help our students. There are considerable challenges for teenagers today and the more guidance we can give them the better. In this area, he believes Alumni associations can help to make a real difference.

Sam concluded by explaining that they would not be looking to re-elect the role of School Liaison as the Development Office is already fully functioning, and is to be the first port of call for Sternians. She assured those present that the Sternians will still be a priority, and that it is hoped this will mean that the Association will get more dedicated time allocated to it.

8. Officers for Election

Chris Huffam was re-elected as Treasurer
Bruce Buckland was re-elected to the Committee
James Marshall was elected as Archivist
Charlotte Greer-Read was re-elected to the Committee
Ben Forman was re-appointed as Independent Examiner

9. Election of Vice-Presidents and other members

The following vice-presidents were elected:

Soma Singh – re-elected
Richard Kimber – re-elected
Sharon Allmark - elected

Sharon's appointment is seen as particularly appropriate as LWC celebrates 30 years since female pupils first joined the school.

The following were proposed as honorary members of the Sternians Association in honour of their long standing service to Lord Wandsworth College and the Sternians Association:

Ed Walker
Graham Smith
Dave Machin

All elected unanimously.

10. Any Other Business

Two items were raised by Graham Barnes:-

- 1. There have been three committee meetings this year, but the meeting minutes have not been posted on the website. The new constitution has also not been put on the website for review.*

John Bacon responded:

It is not currently customary for minutes from committee meetings to be published on the website. However, the Committee will work with Gill Kelly to get them uploaded.

The constitution is also not on the website yet, as it is not finished. However, it will be made available in good time for it to be reviewed and agreed ahead of the next AGM.

2. *I would like to ask whether we could request permission in line with GDPR for another edition of Who's Who to be produced. Could we get the consent necessary to do this?*

Sam Corfield, the LWC Development Director responded to this question:

Sam explained that the cost of gathering this information and consent was prohibitive. However, the Development Office has covered the budget for a bespoke networking platform, LWC Connect, which will soon be rolled out to all who wish to sign up.

LWC Connect will be launching on 1st July this year, and can be used for both social and business networking. Each user can set their own preferences concerning how, and for what reasons they would like to be contacted.

Graham said thank you and well done to Sam for orchestrating this.

Finally, John Bacon explained that the legacy received from Steve Pennington had been invested in a laser cutting and embroidery machine, which was now in use in the Design and Technology Department of the school and could be seen in action during the day. He stated that he believed that Steve would be pleased to see it being such a benefit to the pupils.

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