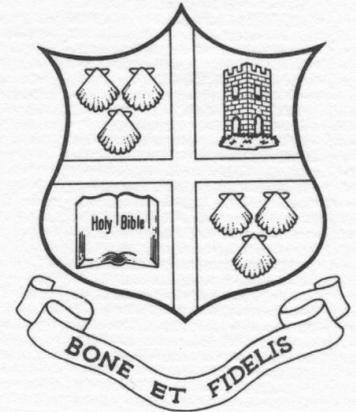


Old Grovian Association

Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge, W. Yorks BD10 0NR Tel: 0113 250 2477

FOUNDED 1890



E-mail: oga@woodhousegrove.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, 2018

PRESENT: J.A. Lockwood (86-92+St16-); M.N. Davison (86-91) Chair; F.C. Hutchinson (95-01) Chair-Elect, V.L. Bates (87-94+St14-) Treasurer;

G.B. Greenwood (34-45); D.A. Richards (48-52); H. Knowles (49-54);
M. Burdett (49-55), J.R.L. Taylor (49-56); C.M. Hansen (50-58); G.C. Percy (50-59);
R.H. Thornton (51-59); A. Bramwell (52-59); J.M.R. Overend (52-57);
J.T. Constantine (54-61); P. Heyes (55-61); A. Clark (59-61); R. Thirlwell (59-66);
J.F. Clay (St66-04); D.A. Harrison (71-79); E.R. Howard (71-78+St82-);
P.B. Watson (St79-99); K. Dawson (St82-99); S.C. Cadman (89-96+St11-);
D. Nulty (90-97)

1. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman, Michelle Davison, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Davy, David Dickinson, Heather Garner, David Humphreys, David Knowles, Ted Palm, Chris Taylor and David Wilberforce.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Proposed by Michelle Davison

Seconded by Brian Greenwood

4. Chair's Report

Michelle Davison reported that her year as Chair had been a very enjoyable and a busy one. She managed to attend a number of events that together encompassed Old Grovians of all ages.

Successful events through the year included:

- 2017 Leavers Reunion in the Hastings Long Gallery in December
- Scottish Reunion at Culcreuth Castle, Fintry in January
- Manchester Lunch at Malmaison Hotel in April
- Summer Reunion at school in July
- London Reunion at Doggett's Coat & Badge at Blackfriars Bridge in September

A Construction Network event is to be held in Leeds later in the month, it is open to Year 12 and 13 students, parents and professionals. The OGA business network is also linked into this.

We are currently looking into setting up a Reunion in the South West.

OGA voice heard by the school in particular link with the WGS Foundation.

Hope to get year group ambassadors who can feed back OG information to their respective year groups.

Michelle thanked Faye, James and Heather for their support during the year.

5. Treasurer's Report

Vanessa Bates gave the Treasurer's report stating that there was a healthy surplus with 89 of the 91 leavers joining. By July 2019 all leavers will automatically become members.

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st August, 2018 were circulated.

6. School update

James Lockwood reported that the School is in very good heart; one of only two HMC schools in the North East that has grown its pupil numbers over the last couple of years.

Numbers in the school are very healthy:

- 340 pupils at Bronte, including three classes in Years 4, 5 and 6
- Total role at the Grove 750 pupils
- Boarding is back on the right track, three years ago the future looked uncertain. Numbers have doubled since then steadily building back up to 105.
- Recruitment for next year looks very bright including 60 pupils from Bronte.
- There are already 120 registrations for the remaining 50 places.

Sports teams continue to push above their weight with National success in Netball and Rugby last year. James encouraged those present to watch the 1st VII and 1st XV if they have the opportunity.

Refurbishment work took place over the summer in the Quad to make a social space and the Headmaster's corridor with the configuration of the Honours Boards in the Dining Hall and along the corridor.

Recent highlights:

- First Independent School in the country to be awarded the Wellbeing for Schools Award
- Careers Fair – this is a massive event that is held biannually
- 25 years of Ashdown Lodge – Pre Prep and Early Years provision
- Two lower sixth formers arrived in September following collaboration with OIAMSJ

Woodhouse Grove has, as far as possible kept a lid on fees, however they are still unaffordable to many. In order to maintain the right pupil mix and ensure we produce rounded young people we need to remain faithful to the School's ethos. For us to achieve this, we need to build a Bursary Fund, we cannot rely on fees alone. James stressed that the school needs the support of Old Grovians' to achieve this.

There are various changes afoot which will result in the school being hit financially:

- lose of our charitable status
- VAT being placed on fees
- losing Business Rate Relief
- increase in Pensions and other costs

The School Community has been shaken by the loss of three great servants to the Grove:

John Cockshott – OG and member of staff

Ian Small – a serving Governor

David Miller – chemist and Headmaster for 19 years

A memorial Service for David and Kathleen Miller will be held on Friday 22nd March, 2019.

7. Report on Southern and other Scholarship Funds

Kath Dawson reported that in April the Trustees had the privilege and pleasure to interview members of the Upper 6th who applied for Scholarship Awards.

The most prestigious of these, The Southern Scholarship Award, was given to William Sagar, who is now reading History and Politics at Nottingham University.

One Crabtree, Two Nuttall, Two Rex Storr and 3 Davy Books Funds were also given totalling £1,675 in all, along with three Old Grovian Awards of £300 each.

At present the Scholarship fund monies remain healthy, with well over £60,000 invested – over 91% of this in The Charity Investment Fund.

In Spring HSBC threatened to close the Treasurers Account unless they received verified information concerning The Southern Trust Fund. They required the names of all the Trustees from 1932 when the Fund was established and for any deceased Trustees a copy of their death certificates along with other ludicrous information. However, with the help of the MIST Relationship Manager, the sanity of David Littlefair and myself was restored and common sense prevailed.

The Trustees are grateful to The School Finance Manager Mr David Ainsworth for all his help with monetary matters and wish to thank the Headmaster for his Hospitality.

8. Election of Officers for 2018/2019

OG Chair: Miss F C Hutchinson (1995-2001)
OG Chairman Elect: Mr J K Jones (St1978-2016)
Proposed by Brian Greenwood Seconded by Dan Nulty
Treasurer: Mrs V L Bates (1987-1994 + St2014-)
Secretary: Mrs H Garner (St1992-2018)
School Representative: Mr E R Howard (1971-1978 + St1981-)
Agreed by all present

9. Induction of Faye Hutchinson as OG Chair for 2018-2019

On inducting Faye Hutchinson as Chair for 2018-2019 Roger Howard wished her well in her year in office. She thanked the School and the OGA for their support during the year.

10. Incoming Chair's remarks

Faye thanked everyone for the honour of being Chair and Michelle for her good wishes. She spoke of how during her year in office she would like to make links between modern business and the traditional values of the OGA, to see OGA + current parents + contacts to be linked. She would also like to explore what Old Grovians want from the OGA.

11. Date of AGM 2019

Following concerns made at the last AGM re the drop in numbers attending the AGM on Remembrance Sunday, it was felt this may in part be due to people having commitments elsewhere. It was therefore suggested changing the date in the hope that more OG's would attend.

Various options were discussed and it was felt that moving the AGM to the Saturday of Remembrance weekend would be the best option and see the most OG's attending.

Proposed arrangements for Remembrance weekend 2019:
Saturday 9th November AGM – tours of the school – buffet lunch
if possible watch OG RUFC if they are playing at home that afternoon
Sunday 10th November Remembrance Service
Autumn Reunion with sports matches

Alan Clark suggested that numbers for such events would be increased by personalised invitations.

12. OG RUFC

Dan Nulty said he was proud to be part of the OG RUFC Club which is predominantly made up of OG's with an odd ex BGS player.

Dan thanked the OGA for their support and for the help in funding the fencing. Also the school, particularly Simon Wood and the grounds staff, for keeping the pitches in such good condition.

The team includes three 2017 leavers and three 2018 leavers, which is very encouraging to have young promising and committed players coming into the Club. Also Sam Dodd who played in the 2nd team at school is doing really well for the Club.

They are focusing on non-playing membership – advertising 100 Club.

Training has been improved with 8 flood lights which have been made available through sponsorship.

13. Sports Teams/Events and Convenors

Roger Howard spoke of the struggle they are having getting people to convene the teams. They are looking to add football as a game to be played at reunions. Need younger OGA's to support events and help put team together.

14. Foundation

The Foundation will be a year old in December. It is involved in a number of things

- Producing Xaipete
- Working with the OG database and tidying it up
- GDPR/PECR legislation
- Facebook – throwback Thursdays + deaths create interest
- Currently raised £38k but need to raise more to help more pupils – One in a Million, Royal Springboard Foundation. Also to support their extras – uniforms, computers etc

Roger thanked Hugh Knowles, Richard Thornton and Chris Hansen for their knowledge and work.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Brian Greenwood suggested
 - i) a quote be obtained for the boards in Chapel to be regilted
 - ii) two names need to be added to the First World War board
- b) Roger Howard mentioned errors on the current database. Richard Thornton said he is unable to look at this as he has a very old database. Roger said there were GDPR concerns re giving people access to the database. School to look into this to find a way round it.
- c) Hugh Knowles thanked the officers
- d) James Lockwood – Lord Pickles had invited him to contribute to a parliamentary review – copies available.

16. Date of 2019 Annual General Meeting: Saturday 9th November at 12.30pm

CHAIRMAN

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DATE

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