

FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN

Founded 1774



OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Scholars' Association held at Friends' School Lisburn on Friday 3 June 2016

PRESENT: Denis Wilson, Brian Mairs, Stephen Moore, John Stanage, Christopher Clarke, Holly Lyons, Ashley McCausland, Donald Patterson, Joan Russell, Arthur Chapman, Brian Moller, Kay Rogers, Mary Donnelly, Eleanor McFadzean, W. Gerald Crawford, Mary E Crawford, Liz Palmer, Maeve Campbell.

APOLOGIES: Adrienne Bell, Shane Beckett, Rosemary Calvert, Maxine Boyd, Aidan Pearson, Maureen Wilson.

1 Welcome

Denis welcomed everyone present and opened the Meeting.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3 Reports

Secretary's Report

- Holly read out a short statement from Maxine Boyd, Secretary of Old Scholars' Association as detailed below.
 - My report must start with a couple of apologies. Firstly for my absence and secondly for the confusion many of you may have experienced as a consequence of the misinformation regarding the date of this year's AGM. The busy diaries of the committee required that the date be changed and unfortunately we failed to give notice to some of you who turned up to an empty room a few weeks ago. My sincere apologies.
 - As in previous years my thanks must go to Joanne McGaffin in the school office for all her help with administration – any errors or omissions are entirely my fault. The committee has, however, recognized that it ought to be more responsible for administering the Association and inevitably there will be "blips" during the handover process.
 - I should assure you however that we are not completely divesting the committee of her invaluable assistance and with the bursar's blessing she will continue to keep us right!
- Denis added thanks to Maxine for all her hard work in this role.

Treasurer's Report

- Brian updated the Meeting on the Accounts.
- Life Membership has increased.
- The magazine appears to be covering itself now in terms of costs and donations from same are good. Now, the Committee can raise funds to support the School, rather than the magazine. Work has gone into controlling the magazine and not distributing to those who do not want it. As such, the costs are down.
- President's Evening made a small profit and was a success. Thanks were extended to Denis and Jill.
- The Committee is now in a position to make payments.
- The Committee purchased plaques for £60 each.

- £1,600 is to come out of the closing balance for the Charity.
- Two small payments have been made to the School, £250 to the Library and £150 for the GCSE Awards.
- A company in Leeds has been identified to make new ties. Brian has ordered 30 ties at £7 each, which should cover the Committee for the year.
- As the finances are reasonably healthy, the Committee could give approx. £2-3,000 to the school for something. Previously, the Committee gave £2,000 for the pitches and something similar could be done again.
- The share value is down a bit, however, Brian explained all shares are down and it will go back up. This may be a time to purchase more. Although the value of the investment is down re the paper value, the cash value has remained same as that which was invested. Same can cover the magazine fund.
- Questions were then taken from the Meeting.
- Members congratulated the Committee for such a healthy balance, something that has not been seen in years. Members were pleased to see the Life Membership now bearing fruit and that the magazine costs had been sorted.
- Denis thanked Brian for his hard work.

President's Report

- President's Evening went well. The music was very acceptable. Holly is to carry on the dinner at Malone Golf Club this year. 80 attended last year, which was a nice number.
- Hobbies Evening – publicity machine needs worked on. The night was great itself, however, attendance was not good. Not sure if this event will be continued again, potentially it could be in a different guise, with more publicity.
- 23 June – Edenmore Golf Club is the Golf Event. 12 Old Scholars' Association members attended last year.
- Combined dinner with PTA - May Ball – 145 attended and £6,000 was raised for renovation of Upper Sixth Common Room.

Principal's Report

- Stephen welcomed the Old Scholars back to school.
- The meeting was held in the Red Room, which was part of the new refurbishments of the school. This was previously a girls' dormitory above classrooms F and G.
- The Old Scholars' Association's role in the school and support given is much appreciated.
- Last Sunday was Bible Sunday wherein Upper Sixth left school officially and will move on. Arthur Chapman spoke at this event.
- Exam results continue to be very high – 100% attained 7 A*-C at GCSE level.
- FSL continues to feature in the Belfast Telegraph League Tables well.
- "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" – Junior Pupils and Music Department involved and went very well.
- Trips – Duke of Edinburgh. Ski, sport, languages trips throughout the year. Habitat for Humanity – 12 pupils went to Romania and found very rewarding experience.
- Colour Run – raised £12,000 for school and contributed to Habitat for Humanity trip. All of the school community involved in helping the community in Romania.
- Google visit to school – pupils tried virtual reality glasses.
- Hockey Success, with strong performances in rugby and netball too.
- Concert at Ulster Hall – new Head of Music has taken on and changed the venue as it was felt the event at outgrown the Assembly Hall. It was a sold out event.
- Building Works – almost complete. Replacement of Harding House should be fully completed in August for Music and Maths Departments. The Departments have, however, already moved in. Harding House itself will be demolished in next few weeks and will be landscaped. General improvement of the facilities the school has to offer. The refurbishment of Middle House completed at the cost of £400,000.

4 Office Bearers

- Holly is taking over as the President this year. Denis wished Holly success in this role. Denis was presented with a plaque and congratulated and thanked.
- The President-Elect is yet to be confirmed.
- Maxine Boyd is to remain Secretary. Brian Mairs is to remain as Treasurer. New members of the committee are Ashley McCausland, Amy Brackenridge and Sarah Lewis. Christopher, John and David have been convinced to remain on.
- Proposed acceptance of new committee was by Kay Rogers and seconded by Eleanor McFadzean.
- Holly spoke of her time in school. She had been Head Girl in 2007, gone to an Old Scholars' Association Dinner and really enjoyed it. As such, she wanted to come back.
- An issue was raised that the Office of Treasurer of the Life Membership had slipped off Committee list and constitutionally was required.

5 Constitution Change

Brian updated Members on a proposed change to the constitution to elect trustees for the purposes of the Charity Commission registration. This would simplify the process of dealing with the Commission, rather than having to gain approval from all 16 committee members. The amendment was passed around for everyone to see. Accordingly, the Trustees are attached to the Offices, not to individuals. These Offices are to be the 2 Treasurers and the Secretary of the Committee.

6 Any Other Business

- **School Magazine**
The Members wanted information as to when the magazine would be sent out. This was to ensure a definite publication date to ensure all materials were supplied for inclusion in same. It was agreed that the publication should always be in or around Christmas time. As such, the final date for submissions is the end of September.
- **Electronic Magazine**
Members enquired about the availability of this, particularly for overseas Old Scholars. This will be enquired about with the publisher of the magazine.
- **Paper for the Magazine**
Some concern was raised about the glossy quality of the paper used and whether it was recyclable. Members were informed that it is really no more expensive than regular paper.
- **Publication / Circulation of Events**
Members stated that they had missed out on some events as they are not on social media and are not located in Lisburn. Holly explained that Committee were working on a 3 tier approach to circulation – paper (Maxine), email and social media. The publication of events did need to appeal to all.
- **Proposed dates in magazine**
It was suggested a programme of events should be arranged and published in the magazine. Holly undertook to mention this at the next committee meeting.
- **Black Tie Dinner**
Holly confirmed the dinner will be Saturday 22 October 2016 at Malone Golf Club. Flyers will be distributed.
- **Younger Generation**
Members advocated the involvement of younger members and wished for Holly to have a fun year as President.
- It was pointed out that on the 9th June 1776, the Trustees of the school signed the lease for the ground the school stands on. On this date a lease was signed transferring the land from Francis, Earl of Hertford to the trustees of the Ulster Provincial School for the sum of £1,000. This celebrates 250 years since the establishment of Friends' School Lisburn.

7 Date and time of next Meeting

The next committee meeting will be held the first week in August. The date **Wednesday 3 August** has been provisionally marked. Time and location are yet to be confirmed.