

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 12 May 2017

PRESENT: Holly Poots, Brian Mairs, Stephen Moore, John Stange, Christopher Clarke, Donald Patterson, Joan Russell, Brian Moller, Mary Donnelly, Liz Palmer, Maxine Boyd, Rosemary Calvert, David Trotter.

APOLOGIES: Ashley McCausland, Adrienne Bell, Hazel Boomer, Helen Carson, Gerald Crawford, Mary Crawford, Mary Falls, Joan Gough, Aidan Pearson, Frank Pettigrew, Kay Rogers, Barry Stange, Elizabeth Ward, Maureen Wilson.

1 WELCOME

Holly welcomed everyone present, extended thanks and appreciation to the musical ensemble for playing so beautifully and opened the Meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed as an accurate record.

3 REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- I have had an extremely enjoyable year as President of the Old Scholar's Association and have particularly enjoyed the good feedback we have received from both members and non-members of the Association regarding the various events we have hosted and are proposing to host in the near future.
- A notable event for the committee was the Association becoming a charity last year. It was fantastic for the Association to use our funds in order to purchase the new scrummage machine for the various school rugby teams.
- With our new charity status the committee are running more events than ever in order to raise some funds for different projects for the school. Indeed, only last night our new President Ashley McCausland organised a fantastic table quiz held at Lisburn Golf Club in aid of audio visual equipment for the school. The committee were so impressed with recent school productions and concerts that we wished to help the Music Department with further success.
- Other successful events run by the committee this year include our President's Dinner held at Malone Golf Club with over eighty people in attendance, our new Careers Networking Event held in conjunction with the school Careers Department and our annual Old Scholars' Golf Day at Edenmore Golf Club.
- Our social media presence has continued to flourish with more news than ever posted on our facebook page attracting lots of new joiners and also the introduction of an Old Scholars' twitter page.

- The school magazine was another success this year and we were overwhelmed with the amount of Old Scholars who had information to put into our section of the magazine. John Stange and the team must be thanked for their hard work and also all those who helped deliver the magazine by hand which kept our postage costs down!
- The Archive Room continues to give pleasure to our past pupils and we held another Open Afternoon this year whereby past pupils were able to come and view the various archives and pictures from the past which are very well organised thanks to the help of the committee and Arthur Chapman.
- Joanne McGaffin in the school office was a great help to me as President and I must give my sincere thanks to Joanne for putting up with all my queries and questions throughout the year!
- I would also like to give my thanks to all the members of the committee for their support and hard work and especially to Maxine, our Secretary and our in-coming President Ashley who I wish the very best of luck for her year ahead.
- President's Evening went well. The music was very acceptable. Ashley 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 2017 – Edenmore Golf Club is the Golf Event. It was a 12 ball last year.
- Combined Dinner with PTA May Ball – 145 attended and £6,000 was raised for renovation of Upper Sixth Common Room.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Maxine started by making reference to the change of venue back to the Library which, it was felt, was a more suitable room in which to meet.
- Another change was the change of surname of our outgoing President due to her recent wedding for which she was congratulated.
- It was noted that the average age of our committee member is falling which can only be a good thing – the younger members are working very hard to revitalise the Association.
- Another notable “drop” is the position of the magazine on the monthly agenda. It is hoped that recent changes to the mailing list will reduce costs. It has not gone unnoticed however that there are still a number of people who did not receive a copy as expected which may be down to a misunderstanding of the opt-in arrangement. It is hoped that these issues will be resolved for next year.
- Maxine made reference to all the contributions made by members by way of submitting articles or helping with hand delivery.
- Significant thanks should go to John Stange for all his hard work putting it all together in his capacity as Editor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brian updated the Meeting on the Accounts:

- The Association is in a healthy position financially and thanks to the table quiz the previous evening there is a further £660 in the coffers, although this has been promised to the school for audio visual equipment.
- The President's Evening was a huge success socially and paid for itself except for a few complimentary tickets offered to special guests.
- Brian was sporting an OS tie, a number of which have been purchased to be offered for sale to members. Please contact Brian should you wish to buy one!
- Brian noted that while all the new members were very welcome and extremely hard working it was apparent that the pendulum has now swung in favour of the ladies and some more gentlemen on the committee would be very welcome
- Holly thanked Brian for his hard work.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Mr Moore welcomed the Old Scholars back to school and noted that a lot has happened in the intervening school year.
- With the aid of some old and new photographs we were shown the evolution of the school grounds and buildings, the most recent and impressive of which is the new East Suite and its associated courtyard area.
- The school continues to flourish academically and is heavily over-subscribed. Mr Moore noted that while there was no pleasure to be had in turning away capable pupils it nonetheless was reassuring to receive so many applications.
- On the sporting front pupils continue to excel both individually and in teams.
- One of the major successes was in the Schools' Cup rugby competition and the medallion team had the privilege of playing in the Kingspan Stadium.
- The pupils continue to be involved with the good works carried out by Quaker Service and Habitat for Humanity.
- The chamber choir recently took part in a choral festival and other musically talented pupils were involved with a sold out concert in the Ulster Hall.
- Mr Moore extended his thanks to the committee for their contributions to the school Library and for sporting equipment.
- He stated that he considered the Old Scholar links to the school to be very beneficial to all involved.

4 OFFICE BEARERS

- Ashley McCausland is taking over as the President this year.
- The President-Elect is yet to be confirmed.
- Maxine Boyd is to remain Secretary. Brian Mairs is to remain as Treasurer. Liz Palmer is Membership Secretary. New members of the committee are Donald Patterson. Christopher, John and Noel have been convinced to remain.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- School Magazine. Once again it was noted that the high quality and weight of paper for the school magazine is perhaps adding to the cost of postage.
- A number of those present expressed an interest in viewing the new facilities in the East Suite. Mr Moore kindly offered to show them around after the refreshments.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Annual General Meeting of the Old Scholars' Association will be held in May/June 2018 – to be confirmed.