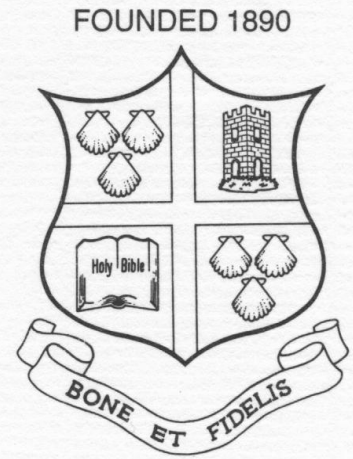


Old Grovian Association

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



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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, 9th NOVEMBER, 2019

PRESENT: J.A. Lockwood (86-92+St16-); F.C. Hutchinson (95-01) Chair, J.K. Jones (St 78-16);
Chairman-elect; V.L. Bates (87-94+St14-) Treasurer; H.A. Garner (St92-18) Secretary

R. Davy (47-57); T. Palm (48-56); J.R.L. Taylor (49-56); C.M. Hansen (50-58);
R.H. Thornton (51-59); A. Bramwell (52-59); J.T. Constantine (54-61); P. Heyes (55-61);
A. Clark (59-66); R. Thirlwell (59-66); P.A. Raistrick (64-71); E.R. Howard (71-78+St81-);
P.B. Watson (St79-99); T.B. Waterhouse (80-91); K. Dawson (St82-99);
A.C. Allison (82-91); J.I.H. Richards (83-91); M. Davison (84-91); H. Gingell Chauvet
(84-90); R. Richards (84-91); A.R. Thompson (84-91); A.L. Riley (89-90);

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, Faye Hutchinson, thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from John Clay, David Dickinson, Brian Greenwood, Hugh Knowles, James Lonsdale, David McCarthy, Malcolm Overend, Ron Reynard, Robert Udy, Stan Utting, David and Ann Wilberforce.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

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

Proposed by Roger Taylor

Seconded by Michelle Davison

4. Chair's Report

Faye Hutchinson thanked everyone for the opportunity of being Chair. She has been very busy during the year attending:

- Two Old Grovian Committee meetings in March and September
- 2018 Leavers Reunion in December
- Manchester Lunch at Malmaison Hotel in April
- Golf Day in June
- Summer Reunion in June
- London Reunion at Doggett's Coat & Badge at Blackfriars Bridge in September
- November Reunion
- A Networking event to be held in Leeds next week

Faye plans to organise a reunion for 2001 leavers, in November 2021.

She thanked James, Sarah and Roger for their support during the year and wished Keith all the best for his year in office.

5. Treasurer's Report

Vanessa Bates gave the Treasurer's report stating that there was a healthy profit of £2,000 with 15 Year 11 leavers being invited to join the OGA along with Year 13 leavers.

Expenditure included the archive project and Year 13 gifts.

Budgeting for Year 11 leavers and more Year 13 leavers, the profit next year is anticipated to be £2,600.

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st August, 2019 were circulated.

6. School update

James Lockwood welcomed everyone present and reported that unfortunately Brian Greenwood, Life President was currently housebound so unable to attend.

He reported that the school is in very good heart and continues to thrive despite the ever increasing economic and political threats.

The last academic year was a very successful one:

- A'Level examination results: 40% A*/A; 60% A*/B; 80% A*-C
- GCSE 90% strong C's and above

Also outside the classroom:

- Rugby 1st XV reached the semi-final of the National Cup played at Allianz Park, home of Saracens
- 1st VII Netball won a national competition for the first time
- Tours to Barbados and St Lucia
- The first Association Football Tour to Portugal
- There have been a host of different and adventurous activities and some really impressive community and conservation work locally eg Bradford North Foodbank and further afield in Uganda
- The quality of music and the performing arts in general continues to improve and impressive school productions last year were masterminded by the Director in residence

Links are even stronger with the Community:

- BCFC – League Football Education
- One in a Million free school
- Leeds Rhinos Netball
- Pauline Quirk Drama Academy
- North Bradford Foodbank

The school roll has continued to grow this year with 786 pupils in the Senior School and 351 children at Bronte House.

We continue to embrace the Grovian values and enhance the school's brand.

The overall picture is very positive, however the current uncertainty with a General Election on the horizon is very worrying for WGS and the independent school sector as a whole.

WGS has always produced rounded, grounded individuals. Many of our students have benefited from life changing state support through Direct Grants and then Assisted places. We need to keep that diversity and opportunity alive and that is where the Foundation comes in. Support can be made in various ways: a large one off donation, smaller more regular giving or even a little, will help. Or financial help with extras eg trips, tours, blazers etc.

7. Report on Southern and other Scholarship Funds

Kath Dawson reported that in the Spring the Trustees received 16 applications for Leaver's Scholarships. The interviews, as always proved to be a very enjoyable experience.

The Southern Scholarship of £450 was given to Charlotte Proctor, who has now embarked on a degree in Dentistry at Leeds University.

In addition, one Crabtree, two Nutall, one Rex Storr and two Davy Book awards were also given, along with four £250 Old Grovian Scholarships. Totalling £2,800 in all.

Kath said that although the amounts involved seem fairly meagre compared with the costs involved in further education, having one's name displayed on the Honours Boards felt like reward enough. The Trustees, are indebted to the School for the new boards and updating the existing ones.

They also wish to put on record their thanks to Mrs Elizabeth Ainscoe, who in the past few years in her own quiet efficient way, has been responsible for informing the Upper Sixth about the scholarships and the procedures involved in applying for one. Sadly, due to ill health she has had to retire and they are grateful to Mrs Claire Nott for taking over this important work along with her teaching duties.

Financially, the scholarship funds are in good order, with over £60,000 invested in The Charities Investment Fund and their thanks go to Mr David Ainsworth for his help and advice in these matters.

Kath reported on two big changes which have occurred this year.

Firstly, as a result of legal restructuring at MIST, the Woodhouse Grove School Charity of which The Southern was part was de-registered. After discussion with The Headmaster it was decided that the best way to proceed was for The Southern Scholarship Fund to become a restricted Fund within The Woodhouse Grove Foundation. The School would still provide all the administrative support but the responsibilities and decision making would remain with The Trustees. Mr Weaving, The Director of Finance at MIST, has been contacted. They hoped the Old Grovian Association will be happy to ratify this.

Secondly she wished to inform the Association that David Littlefair who became a Trustee in 2007 now for personal reasons, has decided to resign as a Trustee. Along with his wife Helen he plans to spend a considerable time each year with his family in Perth, Australia. He will be sorely missed.

David is a true Old Grovian who has done so much for The Grove, in his time helping to raise almost one million pounds for the School, spending much of his working and private time to produce a definitive database of OGs. As Scottish secretary the camaraderie and enjoyment of the Reunions at Culcreuth had to be experienced to be believed. The very best of what it means to be an Old Grovian.

Kath asked for the meeting's agreement, that together with Keith, we send our grateful thanks from this meeting to David for all he has done over the years and to give our best wishes to him and Helen for the future.

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 2019/2020

OG Chairman: Mr J K Jones (St1978-2016)

OG Chair Elect: Miss S J Pickles (1987-1994)

Agreed by all present

Treasurer: Mrs V L Bates (1987-1994 + St2014-)

Secretary: Mrs H A Garner (St1992-2018)

Xaipete Editors: Mr E R Howard (1971-1978 + St1981-)

Mrs S H Lockwood (St2016-)

School Representative: Mr E R Howard (1971-1978 + St1981-)

Agreed by all present

9. Induction of Keith Jones as OG Chairman for 2019-2020

On inducting Keith Jones as Chairman for 2019-2020 Faye Hutchinson wished him well for his year in office. She thanked the School and the OGA for their support during the year.

10. Incoming Chairman's remarks

Keith sent his sincere and genuine thanks to Faye for all her work over the last 12 months. He has known Faye for a number of years and has been very impressed with all she has achieved in her career so far, with much more to come and he hopes to see her at future events.

He welcomed Sarah Pickles as Chair-elect 2019-2020 and Chair 2020-2021.

Keith spoke of his link with the school going back many years and this being a positive advantage to this role, as during this time he has built up a strong bond/link with numerous former parents/students and staff and he hopes that this will enable him to present the views and wishes of the OG's to both the School and other Associations and Committees at the school. He is looking forward to catching up with OG's that he hasn't seen for a number of years – and also welcome new members into the Association.

There are already a number of established events in the calendar for next year and Keith wants to encourage a wider depth of support for these functions. OG's need to feel welcome and encouraged to attend these events especially if they have not been for a number of years or not at all. He said School would welcome/host year reunions or friends' reunions to enable OG's to catch up with each other and find out how things have turned out since they left the Grove.

Communications are pivotal, and vital in engaging OG's, social media has helped but the role of Heather Garner is so important.

He hoped all OG's are very proud of their former school and where possible will continue to take a keen interest in all the various aspects of the all-round education that a school such as Woodhouse Grove provides for its pupils.

The school and education itself face stern challenges ahead, Keith said he can reassure all OG's that the strong reputation of the school is in very good hands thanks to a very diligent, caring Headmaster, ably supported by a hard working professional academic and support staff.

The feel good factor continues to flourish – long may the motto “good and faithful” continue.

11. Date of AGM 2020

This will take place over the weekend of Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th November.
Discussion followed on the best day for the AGM – feelings were split on this and it was decided to review this after seeing the number attending the Remembrance Service and Reunion tomorrow.
It will then be taken to the next Committee meeting where a decision will be made.

12. OG RUFC

Matt Gaffney said OG Rugby was now on a stable footing, due in part to the coach Andy Hinchliffe. They are now in Yorkshire 2 the last tier level, with 40 players and are third in the league with the possibility of going into Yorkshire 1.
At this level they really need their own changing rooms in order to be independent and they also hope to recruit a female team. Although the Club has some volunteers they require more in order to raise the £10,000 required to make the necessary improvements.
The Club is a pathway for current pupils on leaving the school.

13. Sports Teams/Events and Convenors

Roger Howard reported that sports convenors are now in place:

Cricket	Ben Brown
Netball	Brooke Donkersley
Rugby	Joe Bedford
Squash	Dan Nulty

14. Foundation

Roger thanked Sarah Lockwood for her work with the OGA, Foundation and Friends.
The Southern Trustees for their work and Toby for organising the 1992 Year Group Reunion.

He said the Foundation was going well and that people were understanding what they are trying to achieve. Communication through social media and email was vital.

The Foundation can help with the organisation of reunions both outside school and at two possible locations within school - Hastings Long Gallery able to seat 100 or for smaller groups the Rawson Room can seat up to 20.

Roger spoke of the possibility of a Scottish Reunion in Edinburgh next year, on similar lines to the successful London event.

15. Archives digitisation

The digitisation of items in archives is coming on but is far from complete.

Items currently being prepared are copies of Xaipete, News from the Grove and the Grovian magazine.

Photographs will also be put on giving people the opportunity to put names to faces.

Richard Thornton and Chris Hansen are producing information to be included.

When ready these will be accessible through the WGS website and clicking a link to digital archive.

James Lockwood said they hope to identify a room in school to create a heritage room which pupils will be able to use. This project will cost in the region of £2,000. It was proposed that the School/OGA provide funds for this.

Proposed by: James Lockwood

Seconded: Roger Davy

Andrew Allison suggested that the utilisation of technology to integrate virtual reality be considered in this facility.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) The Scottish Reunion at Culcreuch Castle will not take place next year due to major refurbishment.
- b) Roger Taylor asked that a letter be sent to Brian Greenwood from the meeting wishing him a speedy recovery.
- c) Also as Kath Dawson had mentioned a letter to be sent to David Littlefair thanking him for all he has done for the school over many years and wishing him and Helen all the best for the future.
- d) Roger Davy asked if there was a possibility of producing copies of school songs: Xaipete, rugby song and Prize Day hymn.
- e) The new Old Grovian Visitors Book which has kindly been sponsored by former parents was on display.

CHAIRMAN

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DATE

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