

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2022

### PRESENT:

J.A. Lockwood (86-92, St16-); A. Cadman (87-94, St01-) Chair; V.L. Bates (87-94, St14-) Treasurer; A.L. Ainsworth (08-17, St21-) Secretary

S.C. Cadman (89-96, St11-); H. Knowles (49-54); A. Clark (59-61); J.T. Constantine (54-61); R.H. Thornton (51-59); P.B. Watson (St79-99); H.A. Garner (St92-18); P. Heyes (55-61); J.R.L. Taylor (49-56); E.R. Howard (71-78, St82-); K. Dawson (St82-99); T. Zammit (St82-07); S. McCunn (75-82) A. Allison (75-82); J. Malcolm Gray (75-82)

### 1. Chair's Remarks and Report

It is lovely to be able to welcome Old Grovians today and a pleasure to see so many familiar faces both in this meeting and at the various events over the course of the day. I am in the chair for the meeting in the absence of Sarah Pickles, who is sorry she cannot be with us today. Sarah and I do have plans to run a joint event at some time in the Spring term- more details on this later.

I am delighted to have been invited to be Chair of the OGA. This is an association that is close to my heart having been fully involved in OGA events since leaving the Grove in 1994. I think I have played in the Old Grovian cricket fixture every year since leaving school, convening the team and playing in the annual rugby fixture for 25 years. I felt that 25 years was long enough and younger players needed to take up the mantle. However, the new touch and pass innovation that is taking place today has tempted me back out of retirement! I have been involved in the Old Grovian Rugby Club playing for several seasons and I am very sorry regarding the sad news about the club having to scale back operations this season.

With regard to some plans for this year, I would very much like to run a joint event with Sarah Pickles in the Spring Term. The plan is to run a 1990's reunion, hopefully attracting members of our year group back to school after almost 30 years.

Secondly, I am hoping to organise a golf day at Bradford Golf Club on one of the several Bank Holiday weekends in May 2023. I will be liaising with the Golf Club about dates and format but hoping for a Sunday afternoon to allow cricketers to take part and also teaching staff and current school pupils may enter a team.

Finally, I am hoping that it will be possible to run a reunion dinner on the Saturday of Remembrance Weekend November 2023. There will be a Sports Tour theme to the evening but the event will be open to all Old Grovians regardless of their involvement in tours.

Now that the Pandemic is having far less impact on social gatherings, I hope that this year will see a regeneration of interest and engagement in the OGA and I look forward to seeing many Old Grovians throughout the course of the year.

Anthony Cadman

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Pickles, Roger Davy, Alan Bell, David McCarthy, David Knowles, David Knowles (Snr) and Tony Bramwell

## **3. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting**

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

Proposed by Roger Howard. Seconded by Hugh Knowles

## **4. School Report**

James Lockwood welcomed everyone present and reported that the school is in very good health and continues to thrive despite the ever increasing economic and political threats.

The school enrolment numbers are very encouraging with 770 pupils in the Senior School and 300 children at Brontë House, with healthy boarding numbers.

Capital Projects that the school is undertaking in the next 18 months or so:

- A new Sixth Form flagship building project, to accommodate a growing Sixth Form
- Modular Changing Facility
- Installation of the solar panels on the Sports Hall roof and Pool
- Covering over the existing Netball Bolt courts

The purpose of these projects is either to enhance student experience and increase capacity or generate additional income and reduce costs.

After a rigorous reaccreditation process the school has been reaccredited the Wellbeing Award for Schools for another 3 years. We are the first Independent school to receive this award 3 years ago and the first to be reaccredited.

The last academic year was a very successful one:

A Level examination results: 40% A\*/A; 88% A\*-C

GCSE results: 70% Grade 6 (A\* or A) or higher

I am delighted that 2 Old Grovian's have joined the Governors, Michelle Phillips (86-88) and Sarah Huby née Wynne (88-92). Old Grovian Alice Ainsworth (08-17) has joined the Old Grovian Association as Secretary.

Phase 2 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme is now well underway around Apperley Bridge and the school site. The £100 million project aims to strengthen and protect key infrastructure such as Rawdon Meadows Pavilion and the 3G Pitch.

As ever, the Grove seeks to instill a strong sense of social responsibility within our community and continue our partnership work with One in a Million Free School, Bradford City and their Academy programme and the Royal National Springboard Foundation.

We are delighted to be able to exhibit works by artist Frank Roper in Chapel, Stations of the Cross. Which form part of the Methodist Modern Arts Collection.

There is some political uncertainty, as the Labour Party, if elected, wish to remove the charitable status of Independent Schools and add VAT to school fees. The independent school sector generates

£16.5 billion per year and has a tax contribution of £5.1 billion. With changes proposed by the Labour Party, they wish to generate an extra £1.7 billion, however this doesn't take into account those children who will be displaced into the public school system.

I believe the school is in the best financial shape it can be to face these challenges head on.

## **5. Treasurers Report**

Vanessa Bates gave the Treasurer's report stating that the OGA remains in robust financial health, with an increase of Sixth Form members there is an increase in lifetime subscription members.

Continuation of agreed annual donation to the WGS Foundation to provide a bursary for the an OGA family of £3,000.

Reinstatement of Year 13 leavers gifts for the 2022 leavers.

Overall £1,000 profit for the OGA.

There is £5,000 set aside for the archive project, some of which will be used to add more documents to the archives soon.

The bank has lost the mandate where James Lockwood was added to the OGA account.

**A vote to add James Lockwood and Alice Ainsworth to the OGA bank mandate and remove Heather Garner and David Humphreys was held and passed unanimously.**

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st August, 2021 were circulated.

## **6. Report on Southern and other Scholarship Funds**

One of the pleasures and privileges of being a Southern Trustee is reading the letters of those applying for awards and then meeting them face to face in the interview. Sadly for the past two years because of COVID, this has been impossible. Recently, the number of applicants each year has been around 20 and to help our decisions we have devised a short form which is to be filled in by candidates, and which along with their letters can be sent to the trustees. These have been invaluable and with help from the Headmaster and Mr Ed Wright, Senior Master, the Trustees were able to reach their decisions. The Southern award of £450 was given to Charlie Plein, who is studying Mechanical Engineering in Zurich at the moment, a very worthy candidate. 2 H P Crabtree, 2 Duncan Nuttall, 2 Rex Storr and 4 Davy Book Funds were also awarded totaling £2350. The money we invest in the Charities Investment Fund, after an increase in value last year sadly the market value of the investment has fallen slightly this year but is still over £70,000 invested, thankfully finances are pretty healthy. The trustees wish to thank the Headmaster and Ed Wright for their help and hospitality. And also thank Mrs Katherine Hainsworth for her advice and help with monetary matters. We wish all applicants every success in their futures.

Kath Dawson

## **7. OG RUFC**

Sam Cadman read a statement written by OGRUFC Chairman John Hinchcliffe.

It is with great sadness that I write this note, but Old Grovians is no longer in a position to be part of the Yorkshire leagues. Despite being financially secure, we simply do not have the playing

resources to be able to play league rugby. A number of serious injuries, retirements and some local clubs enticing a number of our players with financial offers to play at a higher level have all contributed to the sad position we find ourselves in and although we are financially secure offering financial rewards to players is not something we've ever entertained as a club. The last 15 years have been a hell of a ride, progressing from Yorkshire 6 through to the dizzy heights of Yorkshire 2. We are proud of our contribution to Yorkshire rugby and there is a significant number of players playing at a higher level that have come through our system. In the last 12 months we had 3 lads in the Yorkshire under 20s and 2 in the Northern Counties squad. We'd like to thank every single player and helper over the past 14 or so years. Special thanks go to John Hinchliffe who has been a real stalwart and whose idea to create the club in the 1st place. Ben Brown, who without him and his merry men we'd have never progressed.

Martin Whitcombe for helping professionalise the club along with Dan Nulty who also managed to stabilise us in Yorkshire 2 in his first coaching job and Andy Hinchliffe who helped us to progress even further. The list is too long to mention, but as with all rugby clubs, Old Grovians has been lucky enough to attract some fantastic players and supporters. We'd like to place on record our thanks to Otley. Last season was brilliant playing out of rugby club, we could not have asked more from them and we wish them all the best for next season and beyond. Sadly a combination of Covid, the continuing player drain across all leagues and levels along with the very strict registration system has finally seen us off despite the best efforts of a number of volunteers. Please apologise to the rest of Yorkshire 2 for the late notice on this, it is not a decision that has been taken lightly. Now, it's time to reflect and see if we can get some friendlies after Christmas and we will also be looking to create a 7s team. Hopefully at some point in the future the club will be in a position to reassess if it can play in the leagues. A final do will be organised at some point, so watch this space - we want to be back when we are strong enough. Finally, we'd like to say thanks to all the clubs in Yorkshire that have embraced us and made us feel incredibly welcome over the years.

We are going to miss you all.

Anthony Cadman praised the club for the success it had during its 15 years, as well as wished them future success with creating a 7's team.

Roger Howard added that although the club is no more, the grants which were given to the OG RUFC still continue to have a positive impact on the school, such as the pitch barriers at Elm Tree Farm.

## **8. Foundation**

Sam Cadman gave a report on the Foundation.

The Foundation will focus on 3 key aims this year.

Aim 1: To reconnect and engage with alumni through cross channel communication

Relaunch of full OGA event calendar -to reconnect with alumni across the country and provide different events to attract all ages. Rebrand for Foundation and formulate an annual communication plan, through social media, but not forgetting those that still prefer postal communication. Raisers Edge Database updated to allow direct link to gift donations and communication allowing us to track and monitor who are active Old Grovians. Drive Social Media accounts to push involvement targeting Facebook for Generation X and Instagram for the Millennials and Generation Z. Xaipete

publication annually in January, predominantly online and sent through email, with limited postal copies.

Aim 2 : To provide an income stream to the Foundation by reaching out to alumni to set up to regular giving.

Devise and Launch Annual fund which can be accessed entirely online. There will be 4 different options to choose where your money will be utilised, with an option to support our bursary appeal. The hope is to soft launch this in Xaipete in Jan 23 with a full launch September 23.

Aim 3 : To sustain our legacy campaign

Review our Fidelis members and send out legacy information and tax benefits to Baby Boomers and Silent Generation.

Digital Archive

Additional documents were taken to be added to the digital archive last year and should be added to the site soon. An email will also be sent out soon with the log in details to the archive for those who missed the previous emails.

## **9. Election of Officers**

OG Chair: Mr Anthony Cadman (87-94, St01-)

OG Chairman Elect: Tony Zammit (St82-07)

Proposed by Anthony Cadman                      Seconded by Kath Dawson

President: James Lockwood (86-92, St16-)

Treasurer: Mrs Vanessa Bates (87-94, St14-)

Secretary: Miss Alice Ainsworth (08-17 St21-)

Xaipete Editor: Sam Cadman (89-96, St11-)

Agreed by all present

## **10. Date of AGM 2023**

This will take place on Sunday 12th November 2023.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) Richard Thornton mentioned that since the passing of Hugh Myers, he has been trying to establish who is the older Old Grovian, and has narrowed the search to two, who he will attempt to contact soon.
- b) Roger Howard wished to thank the Chaplain, choir and Phillip Tedd for another fitting Remembrance Service.
- c) Hugh Knowles proposed the name 'Grovians' instead of 'Old Grovians' which was approved by all present.