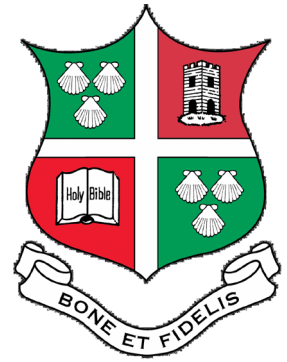


Old Grovian Association

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

FOUNDED 1890



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT:

J A Lockwood (86-92, St16-); A Cadman (87-94, St01-) Chair; V L Bates (87-94, St14-) Treasurer;

J T Constantine (54-61); P B Watson (St79-99); H A Garner (St92-18); E R Howard (71-78, St82-); K Dawson (St82-99); T Zammit (St82-07)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Roger Thirwell (59-36), David McCarthy (st53-92), Richard Thornton (51-59), Hugh Knowles (49-54), Sam Cadman (89-96, St11-), David Knowles (52-58) and James Lonsdale (49-59).

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting & Matters Arising

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record Proposed by Anthony Cadman, Seconded by James Lockwood.

James Lockwood reported that the oldest Old Grovian is thought to be Dr George Straschnov (born July 1923), but could also be Ted Bell (born August 1923). Mr Lockwood confirmed that he and Hugh Knowles are working through the Old Grovian list to determine this.

The meeting noted that last year reference was made to dropping the 'Old' from Old Grovian as some Old Grovians are young, however it was agreed that those who attend the School are Grovian and those who have left are therefore by default Old Grovians, regardless of age. It was noted that any measures to change the name of the Association would require a significant amount of paperwork, including a revision to the bank mandates and the meeting agreed that "Old Grovian Association" was to continue as the organization's name.

3. Chair's Report

I have enjoyed this year as Chair of the Old Grovian Association.

Some highlights from the course of the year have been two signal events held in May and last night.

In May I was delighted to host an Old Grovian Association Golf Day at Bradford Golf Club. We were lucky with the weather and enjoyed a course in excellent condition. Over 40 Old Grovians from across a wide range of year groups attended the event. We enjoyed bacon butties and tea and coffee ahead of venturing out on to the course playing a 4-ball better ball Stableford format.

The teams' scores ranged from 73 points to the winning total of 92. The top three teams were as follows:

1st Placed Team - 92 Points

Joe Bedford (OG & Staff), Chris Softley (Staff), Matthew Dawson (Staff), Gethin Clarke (Guest)

2nd Placed Team – 87 Points

Dan Nulty, Oliver Coughlan, Ben Rhodes, James (Foggy) Phillips

3rd Placed Team – 85 points

Will Coker, Andrew Percy, Ian Lawson, Richard Widdop

After the golf we enjoyed each other's company over a meal and some drinks in the 19th Hole. I would like to record my thanks to those who attended but also to the staff of the Bradford Golf Club, particularly George Grant (OG) who supported the event so well.

Last night it was fantastic to welcome over 100 Old Grovians, former staff and current staff to a Tour Reunion Dinner. The event was meant to be an informal affair where old friends could catch up and reminisce on Tour stories and stories from School days. I think it achieved this aim. We had representation from across the decades with members of the 1987 Zimbabwe Tour - the first major overseas Tour - through to the 2015 South Africa Rugby Tour. As Chair I was pleased to say a few words and lead the attendees in a Heads and Tails game based on some Tour stories. Congratulations to Jen Peachey (nee Best) who won!

I must record my thanks to the Woodhouse Grove staff team who made this event possible. To Franco Caroleo, Shirley O'Boyle and Kevin Grant and the rest of the Catering Team, to Hannah Boggie, our Lettings & Events Manager, and to Sam Cadman for liaising with table organisers and providing some fantastic archive material for the tourists to enjoy.

A couple of other notable happenings this year include a well-attended Reunion in Hong Kong. I was not present, but the Headmaster and Sam Cadman represented the School and by all accounts enjoyed a long and lively evening!

I would also like to mention the newly formed Grovians CC. This was a cricket team that played in the Bradford District Evening League and was made up of a mixture of Old Grovians, staff and parents. The team played their home fixtures at School, for which I would like to thank the School. We managed to finish second in our division and qualify for the finals day but sadly lost in the semi- final on that day. Thank you to our Director of Sport, Dom Bradburne, for being the driving force behind the team.

A final thank you to all Old Grovians who have supported events throughout the course of the year.

Anthony Cadman

4. Treasurer's Report

Vanessa Bates gave the Treasurer's Report, stating that the OGA is reporting a deficit of £1,146 which was due mainly to the costs associated with hosting the Hong Kong Reunion.

Savings have been made on the printing and posting of Xaipete, which is now mainly issued electronically that that these savings have in turn funded the continuation of the digital archive project. There is an amount of £5,000 which has been set aside for continuing the digital archive project.

The OGA has continued to financially support two students, being the children/grandchildren of Old Grovians and that such support is being matched by the School.

The Balance sheet shows a very healthy cash position and the c£1.4k owed to the School at the year end has now been paid over.

5. School Update

James Lockwood reported that in spite of all the political headwinds facing Independent Schools, that the School is in very good health.

School enrolment numbers continue to be very healthy and we are seeing buoyant numbers across the Senior School, with 100 plus students in every Year Group and a Sixth Form of 223. The completion of the new Sixth Form Building cannot come soon enough.

Owing to a changing local demographic and economic challenges, numbers at Brontë House look are set to contract a little. I guess parents are taking the decision to hold onto their cash and delay buying into the Independent Sector until their children reach Secondary School. The Grove's experience is very much in line with national trends.

Totals:	783	The Grove
	303	Brontë House
	<hr/>	
	1086	

Public Examination Results

This year's A-level results were ever slightly down on last year due to the fact that this year's results were realigned to 2019 levels. However, the vast majority of students got into the University of their choice. A growing number of students are opting to undertake Graduate Apprenticeships.

GCSE results were strong, with a record number of top grades across the subject range.

Financially, the School is in good health. It's paid back all its loans to MIST and has not yet had to draw down on any new loans to pay for the ongoing capital projects.

The Modular Changing Facility is fully operational.

The Sixth Form Centre to accommodate a growing number of Sixth Formers will be complete in early Spring.

The Covered Netball Courts have been delayed until early in the New Year.

Links with the local community continue to strengthen. This Summer we signed a 30-year lease with One In A Million Free School providing 1900 hours of Period 6 Games facilities per annum. The money generated will go to support Bursary funds, facilities etc.

Meanwhile, work on Harrogate Road continues as part of the flood alleviation scheme, which is thankfully off site.

The School's sporting reputation goes from strength to strength. We have Regional and National Representations in Rugby, Netball, Cricket, Cross Country and Fencing.

The U16 and U19 Netballers made it through to the National Netball Finals days last Easter, with the U14s missing out by the narrowest of margins. Girls' Cricket is now thriving across the School.

Sports Tours took place in the Summer for the Netball Team, who visited South Africa and our Cricket Team who visited Barbados and St Lucia. Next Summer sees three Rugby sides visiting South Africa.

In terms of Educational Trips Year 9 have had a Battlefields Trip to France, Sixth Form and Year 11 visited Auschwitz and Sixth Form and Year 11 visited Iceland.

There are huge numbers of students participating in the DofE Award Scheme.

At the end of the Spring Term the Grove Theatre was officially re-named 'The McCarthy Theatre' with the great man himself in attendance.

The School community was shocked to the core to learn of Andrew Crawford's sudden and untimely death in August. A deeply moving and equally joyous Remembrance Service was held for Andrew at Halifax Minster on 08 October which was attended by a huge number of Old Grovians and former staff, as well as current members of the School community.

James Lockwood

6. Southern Report

In April 2023, for the first time in a number of years, Trustees were delighted to be able to interview candidates in person. The following Year 13 Leavers received Awards:

Award	Student	Destination
Southerns	Chloe Cater	General Engineering, Durham University
Old Grovian	Evie Hamer	Education, Newcastle University
Old Grovian	Ruby Hawker	Physiotherapy, Sheffield Hallam University
Old Grovian	Max Mackenzie	Business, Accounting and Finance with Work Placements (PWC Flying Start), Newcastle University
Old Grovian	Amy Cavaliere	Languages and Cultures (Italian and Spanish) with a year abroad, University of York
Old Grovian	Catherine Potter	Geography, Durham University
Crabtree	Isla Swarbrigg	Veterinary Medicine, University of Nottingham
Crabtree	Will Wood	Sport and Exercise Science, University of Bath
Nuttall	Ella Manogue	Biomedical Sciences, Newcastle University
Nuttall	Kadiatou Barry	Psychology, University of Hull
Nuttall	Lily Sugden	Psychology, University of York
Rex Storr	Evie Burns	Product Design, York St John University
Rex Storr	Emmanuela Okpala	Interior Architecture, Northumbria University
Davy Book Fund	Sam Binns	Materials Science and Engineering, Imperial College London
Davy Book Fund	Kiah Bardouille-Lewis	English Literature and Philosophy, Lancaster University
Davy Book Fund	Isabella Miles	Mathematics/Computer Science, University of York
Davy Book Fund	Samuel Siu	Biomedical Science with an industrial placement year, University of Sheffield

Kath Dawson

7. OG Sevens Report

The Chair read out the following report in relation to the Old Grovians rugby club:

"As you're all aware, the end of the 21 / 22 season brought a close to 15 years of Old Grovians Rugby in the Yorkshire leagues competing as a 15 a side team. After a period of reflection, a small group decided to try to see if there was still interest in playing but as a touring 7s team instead of a full XV side.

We are very pleased to say that the interest was overwhelming and resulted in the team making their debut in the summer at the Jungle 7s hosted at West Park Rugby Club in Leeds. Three teams were entered into the competition, one in each of the following categories; Elite, Open and Social. The Open and the Social teams won the plate in their categories and the Elite team, having beat the Army in the last play of the game in the semi-final, lost in the final by 2 points to a touring Fijian team (that had 5 full internationals in their team!). The Club went on to enter a few more 7s tournaments, winning at Otley after beating the world famous 7s team 'Samurai' in the final, and then reaching the final at a tournament at Ilkley Rugby Club. We are delighted to share that over 55 former pupils represented the OG's over these three tournaments including 5 former 1st XV Captains.

The money the team raised through these tournaments was donated to the School and has been used to purchase a video camera to film games and has contributed to the new electronic scoreboard.

The future seems bright for the OG 7s. For the 2024 season we have already been invited to play in Melrose 7s, Scotland in their Invitational Tournament, which is a huge privilege. In addition to this, we will play two local tournaments at West Park Rugby Club and Ilkley Rugby Club before venturing further afield to London. The grand finale will be taking two teams to Dubai at the end of 2024 to enter the famous Dubai 7s Tournament. We will enter teams in the International Open and the Social Tournament. We are hoping to build and be even more successful on the pitch and hopefully raise more money off the pitch."

John Hinchliffe & Matt Gaffney

8. Development / Foundation Report

The Chair explained that Mrs Cadman could not be at the meeting and drew the meeting attention to her report, which was as follows:

"This year has been a challenging year for the Foundation as the financial uncertainties and cost of living crisis have impacted the aims of launching our regular giving project.

As we hope you will agree, asking for our Alumni to commit to regular giving at this time is difficult and we have made the decision to 'ride out' the current financial landscape before launching our Annual Fund.

The Foundation is run from under the umbrella of the 'School Marketing Team' and unfortunately due to staff leaving and resources being prioritized towards pupil recruitment to secure the School's student numbers, Foundation has unfortunately not had the resource available to complete all objectives in 22 / 23. Following a couple of appointments, both of whom are Old Grovians, we now have the resource to be able to drive Foundation forward over the coming months, when new recruits are trained.

The Foundation has received three legacies over the last year and this money has been used to fund Bursaries for students and help current families at times of financial difficulty.

Our focus for this year remains to reconnect and engage with our Alumni through cross channel communication. We appreciate that communication has been low over the last year, especially to those who still request postal information, and we will ensure that this is increased for 2024. Our social media presence will also increase engagement and interaction with the School, targeting Facebook for Generation X and Instagram for Millennials and Generation Z.

The Xaipete publication will be produced in January, predominantly online, and sent through email, with limited postal copies. Please contact us if you have any information to share or wish to write an article for the newsletter.

The events calendar over the year has included a 2022 Leavers’ Reunion, Summer Reunion, Golf Day in May and the Tour Reunion in November, a new event that was added to the calendar by the OGA Chair. Due to low ticket sales we had to cancel the London Reunion in September. We are looking at booking this for April 24 but are awaiting venue confirmation. Further events will be launched for the year following discussion with the incoming OGA Chair, Tony Zammit.”

Sam Cadman
Director of Marketing & Commerce

9. Election of Officers

OG Chair	:	Tony Zammit (St82-07)
OG Chairman Elect	:	Daniel Nulty (90-97)
		Proposed by Anthony Cadman
		Seconded by Heather Garner
President	:	James Lockwood (86-92, St16-)
Treasurer	:	Vanessa Bates (87-94, St14-)
Secretary	:	TBC
Xaipete Editor	:	Sam Cadman (89-96, St11-)

Agreed by all present

10. Induction of New Chair & Incoming Chair Remarks

The Chairs of Office were handed over to Tony Zammit.

Tony confirmed that a Golf Day has been provisionally organized for 19 May 2024 at Rudding Park, Harrogate, and that the intention is to hold a London Reunion in April 2024.

In addition Tony confirmed that he is looking to organise a Quiz Night, locally.

Tony reported that he is looking at ways to encourage Old Grovians with interest in music and the performing arts to attend Summer OG weekend and possibly even a dedicated event.

Tony Zammit confirmed that he is very honoured to take up the role of OG Chair, having started at The Grove as a member of staff in 1982, alongside Kath Dawson and Heather Garner.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business to report.

12. Date of Next Annual General Meeting

This will take place on Sunday 10 November 2024.