

Grey College Association AGM Minutes
24th March at 4pm, Pennington Room, Grey College

Minute 881- Welcome

The President welcomed members to the 2018 AGM. Those present: C Brett, J Gyllenspetz, D Baldwin, T Cliff, A Petch, M Gribble, T Hooper, P James, R Hall, M J Robinson, J Earp, P Swift, S Gregory, D Slade, T Allen (Observer).

Minute 882 – Apologies for Absence:

A Sparrow, D Clark, C Jewkes, R Hilton,

Minute 883 – Approval of Minutes of 2017 AGM:

The minutes were approved (proposed: T Cliff, seconded J Gyllenspetz) on a 'General Aye' and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes:

J.C.R. reps on the Association Exec still to be appointed.

The University is reviewing it's relationship with "arms'-length organisations" such as SCRs and independent College Alumni Associations, to protect reputation and meet changed GDPR requirements.

Minute 884 – President's Report:

About 70 alumni from across the generations had attended the last London Reunion.

It is hoped to produce Grey Matters in April or May – approach and appeal are to be different from Firebird.

Concern re growing impact of "opting out" approach to Association membership on numbers and on income from subscriptions.

Minute 885 – Treasurer's Report:

Financial position remains fairly healthy despite reduction in new members in 2017/18 academic year. Total assets stand at £29.42K, including reserve of £5.3 K. The meeting approved proposed expenditure of £3.5 for sponsored Formals and £3K for awards to students re personal development activities.

The meeting accepted a proposal from J Gyllenspetz and M Gribble that £4.4K be given to support the renovation of the surface and fencing of the tennis court.

The Treasurer advised the meeting that there needs to be a change to the authorised signatories for our Nat West bank accounts. The meeting approved a

proposal from Steve Gregory & Andy Petch that Caz Brett (President) and Charlie Jewkes (Treasurer) take on those responsibilities.

The Master and other members asked that the President and Treasurer provide an annual spending budget for approval by future A.G.M.s. Mike Robinson agreed, and recommended that planned expenditure be kept in line with income .

Minute 886 – Election of Officers:

All Officers were willing to continue in their posts, and were elected on a ‘general aye’.

Minute 887 – Association Membership

A total of 265 freshers had joined the Association in October 2017, but 27% had opted out of membership, with the obvious effect on our income. Of even more concern was the possibility that the recent changes to GDPR laws may mean that information about members cannot be shared with College Alumni Associations. It was suggested that we should start to ask new post-grad students to pay Association membership fees.

A number of suggestions were made of ways to reverse the worrying trend of decreasing membership and make students more aware of the Association:

- Association representatives to make a more obvious presence at sponsored Formals
- Careers events hosted/ presented by Alumni to restart as soon as possible
- Improve our social media presence, with a volunteer social media rep, or perhaps paying a good IT student to do that for us .
- Increase publicity of College events to Alumni via social media, Newswire and e-mail
- Promote SCR membership for Alumni

Minute 888 – Reunions 2018/9:

London reunion to be held on 21/09/2018, venue to be confirmed, with 2019 event in the Spring?

Durham Reunion 2019 to be held in July or September 2019 – the student rooms letting agreement will preclude dates in the Easter vacation. September preferred – fewer tourists. Can the Reunion Dinner become less formal, perhaps with music, to appeal to younger Alumni. More focus on anniversary re-unions for year groups, especially those from 1980s/90s?

Minute 880 – AOB:

Website data to be updated, including Fountains Hall renovation.

The President thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 5.25 pm with a reminder that the Bar will open at 6.00 pm.

