

Grey College Association AGM Minutes

24th March 2012

3pm

Pennington Room, Grey College

Minute 823 - Apologies for absence

Richard Hilton.

Minute 824 - Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the 2011 AGM were approved on a 'general aye' and signed.

Minute 825 – Presidents Report

The President welcomed Tom Allen, Master of Grey College since October 2011, to his first AGM.

Efforts to grow the activities of the Association will continue, especially with regard to strengthening links with new graduates. In an attempt to improve communications, an Association group has been established on Linked-In. The migration of the Association's group on Facebook has led to details of most members being lost, and all Alumni are encouraged to re-join that Facebook group. It is intended to post some kind of update on the Association's group pages on both Facebook and Linked-In.

It was noted that in the last year the Association had held two reunions. Both the Durham and London reunions had once again been great successes. Thanks were expressed to Dave Baldwin for arranging the London Reunion in September 2011 at the 'Corney & Barrow' near St Paul's, attended by ca 40 members (mainly more recent graduates). The less formal style and general location will be repeated at the 2012 event which will again be organised by Dave Baldwin. Discussion about timing confirmed that Friday evening is best for this event, and a date of 21st September was agreed. The location is likely to be the same as 2011, but will not be finally booked until closer to the agreed date, to avoid problems caused by venue management changes.

The first of two Association sponsored formal meals had been held in College in February. This was also a charity event in aid of Meningitis, And was held in memory of a Grey Fresher who had died of the disease before being able to take up her place. Cost of such meals is between £8-10 (inc., Wine). This is a great contribution to the College life, and we are charged the absolute minimum rate for the food (the Association does not contribute towards alcohol for the Formal). Since these events also provide the Association with a platform to engage current members of the JCR and explain to them the role of the Association, a second sponsored Formal is planned for the Easter Term.

It was noted that the latest electronic edition of Grey Matters had been well received, with a number of members getting in touch to express their appreciation of the magazine and its content. The

meeting offered congratulations to Henry Dyson on receiving the 'Dunelmensis' award in recognition of his significant contribution to Durham as a volunteer and patron.

At least 80 sets of new or revised contact details had been gathered in the past year, thanks to the 'Missing Persons' appeals on various Grey websites, and to continuing co-operation from the University's Alumni Relations Office, with whom we enjoy excellent relations. A number of paper copies of Grey Matters continue to be printed in College (at a cost of 8p per black & white copy or 20p for colour) and to be made available on request to the Association Secretary or the Grey Matters editor. In reply to a question from the floor, the President noted that no contribution to postage costs for such copies would be sought at this stage, but that this might be needed in future if a large number of requests were to be received.

The continued saving on printing/ postage costs had enabled the Association to award 9 student travel bursaries. A total of £2500 was awarded, following a rigorous application and selection process, an increase of £500 on the previous year.

The President reported with great pleasure that Phase One of the Jubilee Development Project (to which the Association had contributed) had been completed, with a formal opening on March 7th. Association members were offered a guided tour of the two extensions at 5pm.

Minute 826 - Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented the report which shows a surplus of in the Association accounts.

Subscription income of £22K was reported, although some double accounting resulting from billing on the first Term's Battels bill will mean that this will not be as high in future years. There was, however, a smaller loss this year on the reunions, which is budgeted for, largely due to the provision of free reunion dinners for first year returners. It was agreed that the Association should restrict the offer of a free meal to those attending the Durham reunion only.

It was noted that there was a surplus on the year of £8K, with a surplus of £28K on the Balance Sheet.

The Treasurer recommended that the existing savings account be closed, since interest is derisory, and that £10K be invested in a one-year Nat West term deposit. This guarantees £300 income, which will pay for another travel bursary. The meeting approved this proposal unanimously.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by the President, seconded by the Secretary, and approved '*nem con*'. Thanks to the Treasurer for his work was offered by those present.

Minute 827 - Donations and Fund Raising

It was announced that there will be no collection after dinner this year.

The President noted the tremendous enthusiasm and appreciation shown by JCR/ MCR members for the JDP Phase 1 extensions to the Library and the JCR. Phase 2, which will concentrate on the refurbishment/re-organisation of Fountains Hall, is now being planned, and the President, along with Tom Allen (Master) and Josh Turner (JCR President), outlined the likely components:

- Likely cost = ca. £1 million , with £300k should be available from the current University refurbishment budget

- Approximately £600k needs to be raised, it is hoped that as with phase 1 the University will match funds raised by the College, particularly any cost of improving facilities for the disabled.
- Like all other College buildings, Fountains Hall is owned by the University, and only approved contractors/ suppliers can be used for any work, which must also be managed by Estates & Buildings Division
- Surveyors have likened the building to a tent – internal changes are likely to be easier and cheaper than external extensions, and a 60 sq. m. mezzanine is being considered.
- A rear extension might lead to difficulties re emergency services access, whilst a tree with listed status blocks a side extension .
- The Vice Chancellor is known to favour retaining the external appearance of the building.

A working group with 15- 20 members, including JCR members, is considering use and design criteria.

With the above in mind, and to confirm the Association's commitment to improving facilities for all students, the President proposed (seconded by the Treasurer) that the Grey Association make a £10K donation to the Grey College Trust's Jubilee Development fund , to be earmarked for Phase 2 .This motion was unanimously accepted.

Minute 828 - Governance

After reminding those present of his election promise that he would review the make-up of the Executive Committee of the Association, with a sharp focus on roles and responsibilities, the President presented his proposals for a revised governance model.

The Officers will have specified responsibilities:

- President - as currently defined
- Secretary – Agenda & Minutes of Exec & Annual General Meetings ; as-hoc requests; Business Angels administration & promotion
- Treasurer – Financial management; Accounts; 5 year budgets
- Vice President for Publications (to assist with the preparation of Grey Matters and any other publications)
- Vice President, Website Editor (to maintain/update, create new content for and handle queries relating to the Association's website)
- Vice President , London Reunion (to arrange the London Reunion and assist with other informal reunions)

These officers will be joined by an unlimited number of members co-opted to the Executive to support specific projects in keeping with their own availability, skills and interests. It is from this pool of unelected members of the Exec that future Association officers will be elected, thus increasing continuity and experience, and encouraging inclusivity.

Henry Dyson welcomed the proposal as a very good idea, especially since it offers a coherent organisation and an opportunity to get 'interest groups' (e.g. rugby, rowing, 2001 'vintage', etc) formally linked to the Association. The President reported that a group of ca 100 Alumni from 2001 had organised their own reunion in College in July 2011, and were planning to repeat the event in 2012 with at least 120 participants.

Members felt that it is important that the Association encourages as many as possible to take advantage of centrally-held contact details, and to support the feeling of responsibility to the University & the College.

The President confirmed that the Executive Committee had unanimously supported this proposal, which was accepted on a 'General Aye'. He announced that Janet Gyllenspitz had offered to stand down from her position as Vice President, and to become the first co-opted member of the Exec. The meeting thanked Janet for her work on the Exec during her 16 years of service.

Minute 829 - Election of Officers

All Officers were re-elected/ ratified on a 'General Aye':

- President - Thomas Cliff
- Secretary - Steve Gregory
- Treasurer - Alan Richards
- Vice President for Publications - Foster Neville
- Vice President, Website Editor - Richard Hilton
- Vice President , London Reunion – Dave Baldwin

Minute 830 - Reunions 2012/13

London Reunion: 21st September 2012 -The Corney and Barrow, Paternoster Square (tbc?), £25 per person, (inc. Bubbly, wine and food).

Durham Reunion: Will be held on 22-24th of March 2013.Booking form to be made available on the Association Website as soon as costs are agreed with the Busar.

Minute 831 - AOB

A drinks reception will be held on the roof terrace at 7pm before dinner at 7:30pm in the Dining Hall.

The President drew the meeting to a close at 15:46