

# Old Grovian Association

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2011

**PRESENT:** D.C. Humphreys (Hm96-) President; M.J. Gullick (1988-1995) Chairman, Lord Walker of Aldringham (1958-1963) Chairman-elect; V.L. Bates (87-94) Treasurer; K. Dawson (St82-99) Xaipete Editor; H.A. Garner (St92-) Secretary

G.B. Greenwood (34-45); J.K.H. Butterworth (37-40); D.R.A. Atkinson (38-45); R.C. Watson (42-49); J.A. Ackroyd (43-49); J.G. Bairstow (St47-84); B.Marks (47-54); D.A. Richards (48-52); J.C. Taylor (48-54); G.H. Knowles (49-54); J.R.L. Taylor (50-56); C.M. Hansen (50-58); G.C. Percy (50-59); R.H. Thornton (51-59); J.L. Mathewson (51-60); A.R.A. Dearing (52-57); A. Bramwell (52-59); D.W. McCarthy (St53-92); A.C. Bottomley (54-61); J.T. Constantine (54-61); R. Thirlwell (60-66); J. Clay (St66-04); N.G.C. Wood (74-78); T.G. Wood (75-85);

### 1. Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman, Mathew Gullick, opened the meeting and welcomed all members present.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Neil Austwick, Trevor Bailey, Roger Davy, Richard Mattocks, John Malcolm Shaw, Foster Watson, David Welsh and David Wilberforce.

### 3. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

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

### 4. Chairman's Report

Mathew Gullick thanked the Association for the honour of being Chairman, and the officers and OGA Committee for their support during his year in office. Sam Cadman's arrival had been a 'breathe of fresh air' to the School and the Association. 2012 was a mile stone for the School and Sam's involvement in the organisation of the celebrations would extend beyond within the Association.

Mathew thoroughly enjoyed his first visit to the Scottish Reunion and expressed his thanks to David Littlefair for organising this event so efficiently over the last 18 years.

Mathew thanked Nick Wood for continuing to organise the Clay Pigeon Shooting which should continue even as a purely Old Grovian event. .

Prize Day was a special event and impressive to those who attended.

OG Sunday in July was a very successful event and marked Mathew's return to the cricket square for the first time for many years.

The Golf Day started as a new event by Stuart Nesbit last year was held again with increased numbers taking part, hopefully this will grow in strength over the years.

The school has seen many advances over recent years as it approaches the Bicentenary year. The quality of buildings and students are very impressive and a credit to David Humphreys.

He was impressed by the Old Grovian sports teams and the high quality of the rugby and netball being played.

Last year Mathew planned to organise an Oxford Cambridge Reunion which unfortunately had not been possible due to work commitments over the year but he promised that he would try to organise this next year.

He stressed that next year was an important year in the school's history and all Old Grovians should try to come back at some stage during the year either to an event or just to visit the school.

Mathew wished Mike Walker all the best for his year in office.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Vanessa Bates gave the Treasurer's report.

Copies of the accounts for the year ending 31st August, 2011 were circulated.

Thanks was given to the Finance Officer David Ainsworth for auditing the accounts.

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

Kath Dawson reported that the Trustees met twice a year and in March interviewed 16 Year 13 pupils who had applied for leavers' awards. The calibre of candidates was first class making the task both difficult and enjoyable. Kath said the Grove deserved congratulating on producing students of such confidence and quality.

The Southern (most prestigious and academic award) was given to Megan Lader, who topped the Grove's 2011 A level achievement list and is now reading Law at York University.

Six other scholarships were awarded – two H.P. Crabtree, two Duncan Nuttall, one Rex Storr and one Davy book fund award.

All the Scholarships are funded from the interest accrued by capital invested in the Charities Investment Fund and the Central Finance Board. Over the last two years the income has been affected by the economic situation and the drastic drop in interest rates. In May a Scholarship Fund Appeal was launched with letters being sent to over a hundred Old Grovians who received Scholarship awards between 1950 and 2000. This has resulted in the capital receiving a significant boost raising the total to well over £43,000.

The Trustees wished to put on record their sincere thanks to those scholars who so generously responded to the appeal which remains open until the end of December.

Six Old Grovian scholarships of £150, funded by the OGA, were also made. These awards were presented to those pupils deemed to have given much of their time and service to the School in positions of responsibility and in the fields of sport, music, drama and charitable events.

On behalf of the Trustees Kath thanked David Ainsworth for his advice and preparation of the accounts, to the Headmaster and his secretary Mrs Tara Gilks for their interest, help and hospitality and to Heather for her invaluable work with the Appeal.

## **7. Election of Officers for 2011/2012**

The Chairman-elect for 2011-2012 is to be Richard Graves (1987-1994)  
Proposed by Hugh Knowles                      Seconded by Trevor Constantine

Treasurer:	Mrs V L Bates (1987-1994)
Secretary:	Mrs H A Garner (St1992-)
Xaipete Editor:	Mrs K Dawson (St1982-1999)
School Representative:	J C Cockshott (1971-1978 + St1983-)
Sports Convenors:	N A Fawcett (1987-1994) Miss L J Myers (2001-2008)
Proposed by Roger Taylor	Seconded by Richard Thornton

## **8. Bicentenary Report**

Sam Cadman informed those present that she was appointed as Development Manger in March 2011 and is responsible for the organisation of all the events for the School's 2012 Bicentenary celebrations.

Lists of events for 2012 have been circulated and she hoped that everyone would come to at least one event during the year.

The celebrations start with:

- Service in Chapel on 8<sup>th</sup> January (the actual date the school was founded in 1812)
- Lancashire Cheshire Dinner to be held at the Palace Hotel in Manchester on 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- Sports Dinner at School on 30<sup>th</sup> March
- exhibition down the Headmaster's corridor showing the diversity of sports at the Grove over the last 200 years
- Banqueting Dinner in the Dining Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> November (tickets go on sale in April maximum 200 people – black tie event)
- Bicentenary Garden is being erected on the land in front of the original Sunday School. This has been designed by pupils from Year 13 and constructed by Old Grovian Craig Wintersgill

A Facebook page was launched earlier in the year and 400+ Old Grovians had linked onto the site within a couple of months.

Xaipete the book written by Nigel Watson and illustrated by Sam covers the 200 years of the Grove, it is currently at the printers in China. Pre-orders are being taken at £11.99 the eventual price will be £14.99.

Within the next year it is hoped to have a new alumni database in place which will be accessible to Old Grovians

## **9. Induction of Lord Walker of Aldringham as Chairman for 2011-2012**

On inducting Lord Walker as Chairman for 2011-2012 Mathew Gullick wished him well in his year in office.

## **10. Incoming Chairman's Remarks**

Lord Walker thanked Mathew and congratulated him on his successful year as Chairman

In his inaugural speech he gave a brief resume of his days at the Grove and career since leaving.

He reminisced of the very happy years he spent at the Grove, enjoying sport, music, scouting, partaking in the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pageant. Above all they learnt the difference between right and wrong and to respect other people.

During his time here he felt very much part of a big family and one to which he owed intense loyalty and it is evident through Nigel Watson's book that the school's culture and values, evident then, have been taken forward so powerfully and successfully in more modern times. As it reaches its 200 year milestone, he said it is heart-warming, and humbling, to see how the school has flourished in recent times under its inspired leadership.

On leaving the Grove he worked as a teacher at a boy's prep school in Norwich for a short time before embarking on his 42 year career in the Army. His Army career has seen involvement on cold war sorties, the Falklands, Northern Ireland, Gulf Wars, Sierra Leone, East Timor and Afghanistan with the last six years spend in London. On retiring in 2006 he spent five happy years as the Governor of the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Having fully retired earlier this year he is honoured and delighted to become Chairman for the forthcoming year. His aspirations for the year is that we should continue the good work of his predecessors and that we should all do our best to make the bicentenary a success and enjoy it to the full.

## **11. Any Other Business**

- a) Richard Thornton expressed concern that we don't have a website editor who Old Grovians could contact regarding information on or for the website. Sam Cadman said that she prepared information for the website and that someone else placed this on the website periodically. As there was a cost involved this was done every two to three months to keep costs down.
- b) David Humphreys reported on the following:
  - i) the digital archive information was still not available to Old Grovians over the website due to data protection. Formal consent is required from everyone on every photograph used – this would be an impossible task to complete so through the last few publications of Xaipete we have asked Old Grovians to let us know if they don't want to appear on any photographs used. It is hoped that the Archives will be accessible from a live link next year sometime.
  - ii) during his recent visit to New Zealand and Australia he was welcomed by all Old Grovians he met. Due to the ethos of the school and with the network and communications now available Old Grovians now have the opportunity for a global experience.
  - ii) last week the Grove U18's rugby team beat Bradford Grammar 24-0.

- iii) plans are in place for an all weather floodlight rugby and football pitch. The 3G pitch will be brought up above the flood plain of the River Aire by using the earth excavated during the preparation of the foundations for the swimming pool.
- iv) partnership between ourselves and Bradford City is now up and running, this is paying for the new pitch and funding a Youth Development Programme.
- v) Harvesters land is not yet ours or on lease but we are close in negotiations with Bradford Council. This will also be for use by the community.
- vi) we are in talks with the National Swimming Association regarding a partnership with the school when the swimming pool is up and running.
- vii) next year an exhibition will be put up in the Headmaster's corridor showing the various eras and major developments during the school's history.
- viii) the existing pool will become a multipurpose activity hall and eventually in 2015-2016 a new purpose built Design and Technology building will be built.
- ix) the publisher of Xaipete was more than happy to get involved with the publication as he has happy memories of the area as his Grandad lived in Cragg Woods.

**12. Date of 2012 Annual General Meeting:** Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November

**13. Closure**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the Headmaster for the School's generosity to the OGA and for the use of the School facilities.  
Meeting closed at 12.30 hours.