



Minutes of the Ninety-First Annual General Meeting Of the Old Grammarians' Club

The Annual General Meeting took place in the Paisley Grammar School Staff Room, Paisley, on Monday the 9th September 2019. The President, Mr. Ross Brisco, was in the chair.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:

The Minutes of the Ninetieth Annual General Meeting were distributed and unanimously adopted.

Apologies

Apologies were heard from: Mr. John Pears, Mr. Bruce Erroch, Ms. Fiona Hewitt, Miss. Elizabeth Allan, Mr. James Andrew and Mrs. Roslyn Woodland.

Constitution and standing order

The Constitution and the Standing Orders were distributed and unanimously adopted.

President's Report:

The President welcomed all attendees and thanked the committee members for their work this year.

The President spoke of the open and positive relationship the committee has with the school, which is mainly due to Ms. Fiona Hewitt keeping the club up to date with the goings on within the school. Her time is very much appreciated and it is hoped that the committee and wider Old Grammarian community can support school events. A special thanks to the Heads of School, Rachel Hepburn and Sophie Hutchison for their support in the past year.

The President discussed plans of further involving the school with the committee and the club. It is hoped that this year an '*OG Committee*' can be formed within the school, made up of pupils, allowing them to support with the organisation of the ball and the newly established Junior School Grammarians Award.

The President relayed news of club members. Obituaries were reported for Catherine Riddell, a regular attendee at our Lunches, Ellen Richmond, who leaves a family of Old Grammarian's, and Lynda Wieland from the class of 1979. Congratulations to our Vice-President, Erin Newbigging, who married Craig Lees in May this year, and to Nicola Irvine and Blair Wright, two Old Grammarian's who got married in June. Along with these, some notable successes for our members; Bruce Erroch was awarded Queen's Counsel, Margaret Graham has been made Professor at the University of Edinburgh Geosciences, Kerrie Hargrave was awarded a PhD, Scott Twynholm was awarded a Masters of Music Composition and the two Old Grammarian Prize winners this year were Stephen Graham and Lauren McNicol.

Secretary's Report:

Mrs. Erin Lees spoke of The Old Grammarian's presence on social media outlets and communications with the public and how they are continuing to grow in a positive light over this past year. She expressed the difficulties of knowing the full extent of our membership and presence in the digital age, but in the areas that are measurable are continuing to improve.

On Facebook, which is our main social media outlet, we now have 1241 followers which has increased from 1191 followers from the previous year. All posts are regularly 'liked' and 'commented on' and these posts have encouraged the public to; send private messages to our group, share stories or request information.

We have 437 email contacts for our newsletters which has increased from last year. These numbers also match our pre-GDPR numbers.

There were 30 requests in the last year for lifetime membership, 3 of which donated the membership fee to the club.

Lastly, our open rate on our last newsletter was 71%, which means 305 out of the 437 of our email contacts opened the newsletter email, which is an amazing result for us.

The Secretary would like to say a special thanks to Mr. Melvyn Haggarty, for continuing to contact long-standing members via post and now keeping in touch with Old Grammarian's via Facebook and LinkedIn. To our President, Mr. Ross Brisco, for keeping our social media presence alive and for providing the statistics mentioned. Finally, to Miss. Shona Ferguson, for her contributions to our social media presence, for conducting our minutes at all our meetings and for creating a wonderful newsletter which is clearly an interesting read to have gained such a high open rate. Mrs. Erin Lees thanked the committee for everything they have done and for their continued support.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, Mr. Connor Craig, informed us that the club's accounts have been checked by Mr. William Beaty, whom we thank very much for his time.

Thanks to the profit made at the Grammarian Lunches, we have a surplus of money in the account. The Treasurer detailed the Club's incomes through donations and our usual events that we host. The outgoings include committee room hire charges and special occasion costs. These are important for the interests of the Club. As shown, the two Senior Luncheons over this last year continue to be a positive financial and social achievement. The Annual Ball made a profit, allowing us to donate £1000 to Finding Your Feet, thanks to the generosity of those who attended the 91st Old Grammarians Ball. A total of 71 tickets were sold, with 69 of them attending (excluding invited guests).

The Treasurer had no spending concerns but made some suggestions to consider for next year. By subsidising the school pupils tickets, like we did in the past, we may attract more attendees. Along with this, Mr. Connor Craig spoke of the possibility of changing bank account to one that worked better for us and our money. This will be considered but no changes have to be made yet.

There is only one loose end from last year to tie up which is a stationary cost from Mr. Melvyn Haggarty that he did not claim, so it will be added to next years accounts.

Social Convener's Report:

This year the Club has organised one Gala Ball and two Senior Luncheons.

Once again, the Annual Old Grammarian's Ball was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Tam the DJ was excellent at getting the crowd up and dancing, by providing a good mix of music. Miss. Karen Millar thanked Mrs. Faye Carruthers for her time and dedication spent collating excellent raffle prizes, along with the rest of the committee and the support provided.

Due to cost and food served, the committee have decided to change the venue of the 92nd Ball to Ralston Golf Club. It is hoped that this will allow a price reduction and attract more attendees to the event.

The Social Convener thanked Finding Your Feet for their help with the event and hoped they can do wonderful things with the £1000 donation the club was able to make thanks to the success of the Ball.

The next Ball will take place on Friday 6th March 2020 at Ralston Golf Club.

Golf Report:

R. Y. Corbett Memorial Salver:

The competition was played this year at Ranfurly Castle Golf Club on 23rd August 2019. 12 members took part and the winner was Freddie Douglas, Ralston Golf Club, with an excellent score of 35 stableford points. Freddie won the trophy 22 years from his success! Runner up was Douglas Martin, Ranfurly Castle, and third, Alex Miller, Ralston Golf Club.

AGM, 23rd August 2019:

The Executive Committee remains as previously elected:

President and Match Secretary	J G Andrew
Vice-President & Membership Secretary	W D Martin
Treasurer	G R Matthew
Secretary	J L Park

Events:

Queen Elizabeth Coronation Schools Trophy will be played this year from 28-30th September 2019 at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh.

Last year on Saturday 22nd September
Won 2-1 v Merchistonias

Fraser & Christopher Grant
David Dickson & Stuart Storrie
Ross Douglas & Andy Reid

On 22nd September
Lost 3-0 v Geroge Heriots

David Dickson & Louis Fleming
Ross Douglas & Andy Reid
Graham Clark & Stuart Storrie

Membership:

The Club stands at 80 life members, 50 of which are active
There is approximately £800 in the bank account.
Any person with connections to the school, i.e. former pupils, married to former pupils; teachers past and present will be made most welcome.
We are in great need of new young members and we propose to target some of the recent leavers who played golf. Our Ralston membership is the main potential with Paisley is non-existent. There is no charge for under 30's to join as a life member.

Information:

Any new members please contact Douglas Martin 01505 873506 or James Andrew 01505690463
email jamesandrew@hotmail.com.

Special Report – Senior Luncheons (M. Haggarty):

The 90th Lunch attracted 120 people and the following Lunch had 75 attendees, both with excellent speakers. Unfortunately, the food was an issue at both events, therefore the next Grammarian Lunch will take place at the Glynhill Hotel.

The next Lunch is on 28th October 2019 at the Glynhill Hotel with Caron McPherson (nee Workman) as the guest speaker. It is hoped That the school will be able to provide some musical entertainment for the event.

School Report

Ms. Fiona Hewitt passed on her apologies for this AGM. The President, Mr. Ross Brisco therefore read a brief update on the school.

The school has undergone refurbishments which have made a massive difference for both the staff and pupils. A special thanks to the parent council for their hard work retaining this grant.

The school is doing very well in the league tables within Renfrewshire for exam results.

The club is happy to welcome our new Heads of School, Miss. Lily Edgar and Mr. Joshua Campbell who we look forward to working with in the upcoming year.

Election of the Office Bearers

Honorary Presidents:

The Honorary President, Miss. Lea Allan was unanimously re-elected on the motion of the President.

The Honorary Vice-Presidents were unanimously re-elected on the motion of the President:
Mr. George Miller; Mr. Kenneth Gillespie; Mr. John Mitchell; Miss. Elizabeth Allan; Mr. Douglas Mill;
Mr. Alasdair Campbell; Mr. Gordon Matthew; Mr. Ian Gillespie; Mr. Bruce Erroch; Mr. Melvyn
Haggarty; Mrs. Nan Atherton; Mrs. Faye Carruthers; Mr. John Pears; Mr. Donald John Morrison and
Mr. Hugh Nisbet.

Election of Executive Office-Bearers:

The President proposed the election of the following office bearers. All were duly seconded and
unanimously re-elected:

Vice-President:	Mr. Connor Craig and Miss. Erin Newbigging
Treasurer:	Mr. Connor Craig
Social Convenor:	Miss. Karen Millar
Secretary:	Miss. Erin Newbigging
Minute Secretary:	Miss. Shona Ferguson

Election of the Executive Committee:

The President elected the following who were duly seconded and unanimously elected to the
Executive Committee:

Mrs. Faye Carruthers (President Emeritus)
Mr. Melvyn Haggarty (Past President)
Ms. Fiona Hewitt (School Representative)
Miss. Lily Edgar (Head of School)
Mr. Joshua Campbell (Head of School)

Closure

There being no further business, the date of the next Annual General Meeting was then set for
Monday, 14th September 2020.