

## **Grey College Association AGM Minutes**

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**2pm**

**Pennington Room, Grey College**

### **Minute 805 - Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from: Ben Whitley, Peter Swift, Mark Fenton, Robin Brook-Smith and Richard Hilton

### **Minute 806 - Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the 2009 AGM were approved on a general Aye and were signed as a true record by the President. There were no matters arising.

### **Minute 807 – Presidents Report**

The collection at the Jubilee Dinner raised £2500 this included the additional 28% reclaimed by the Association Treasurer using HMRC gift aid scheme, this will be added to the funds collected for the jubilee project

The president thanked Richard Hilton for launching the new website, which has been well received. The dates for the reunion will be shown on the website, when confirmed, and whilst it is expected that it will be the weekend after Easter, the association will be flexible to accommodate the business needs of the College.

The Association's London Reunion will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010, and will be held at Sarasin & Partners LLP, St Pauls Courtyard. The evening will comprise of a reception with drinks, canapés and dinner and will cost £45 per person. Sarasin & Partners are the University fund managers and following investigation the association proposes a trial at a new location.

The Association has continued to sponsor formals for the JCR, these have been very good for building the reputation of the Association and providing complimentary formal dining for members of the JCR.

In response to a questions received, the President wished to clarify matters regarding the involvement of the Association in the College Council. The University requires, by statute that the president of the Association attends the College Council, in the rare instance that he cannot attend it is clearly stated that this cannot be deputised. To do this the president must attend in college 3 times on weekdays throughout the year, but provides the Association with official status in the College and University.

### **Minute 808 - Motion: the future electronic distribution of Grey Matters Magazine**

Grey Matters continues to be the biggest expense related to the association, however, it is considered to be one of our strongest communication documents. For these reasons it was proposed that the distribution of the magazine be made electronic with a request for hardcopies to be channelled through the Secretary. The magazine goes to all our alumni, and to date approximately 500 people have requested that their copy be sent electronically. Further the money

that the Association save would be put back to travel bursaries. The President proposed that there is a transitional period, during which we inform the association members of the change and collate e-mail addresses. In 2011 the association will once again send a full mail shot in which it will inform members that the magazine will in future only be issued in soft copy (via the website and e-mail) or by special request and that in 2012 only requested copies of the magazine, these will be produced locally, aiming to reduce hardcopies this in future years. It was agreed that should the motion be passed the Association's Executive members will work out the practicalities of this. Foster Neville raised a concern as to the change process from hard to soft copy and also noted that the number of hard copies that would be needed in the first few years could be high.

The Motion was passed on a general **Aye**.

#### **Minute 809 - Awards and Bursaries**

**Awards:** The current process of sitting with the Master to agree the basis which of the 6 applicants will receive a travel bursary will continue, however, it is hoped that the number of awards will increase with the electronic distribution of Grey Matters.

**Phoenix Rugby Club:** A number of alumni members have established the Phoenix Rugby Club through which the alumni members of the rugby club will hold a reunion in November each year, playing a match against a current JCR side. By keeping the link between the PRC and the association will enable the PRC to have access to the favourable rates for accommodation in college received by the association. 50 people attended the reunion in Nov 2009 and is a good example of a special interest group that continues to keep people in touch with the College.

**The future of the Presidency:** The President announced that he would be standing down at the next AGM and talked about the role and importance place that the President has in the College. The President said that he would produce a job description for the role, which he would circulate via the website. Further to this a member stressed the importance of the Presidency, and asked that the committee elected today be proactive in finding someone to be a good President for the association.

#### **Minute 810 - Treasurers Report**

The treasure presented the statement of accounts for the association. A question was raised in relation to the current interest applied to the reserve account. The treasurer stated that although the interest rate was currently 0.1% it was not worth time to move the money to a new account, due to the low interest rates offered across the board.

#### **Minute 811 - Subscriptions and Fundraising**

The President noted that it had been one of the achievements of his presidency to raise the levy to £51 for three year students. Having done this with the full cooperation of the JCR the levy is now a modest, but realistic level, giving the Association a strong financial stability base in the short to medium term. Should the University insist that the Association collect the money independently of the Battles then this will prove a frustrating and complex challenge for the Association. David Baldwin spoke about the University Alumni Office and their point of view on this, commenting that there was currently no clear and communicated strategy relating to Alumni Associations.

### **Minute 812 - Election of Officers**

Secretary – Thomas Cliff was re-elected on a general Aye

Secretarial Support - Steve Gregory was elected on a general Aye

Treasurer – Alan Richards was re-elected on a general Aye

Vice Presidents – David Baldwin and Janet Gyllenspetz were re-elected on a general Aye. Ben Whitley stood down.

Grey Matters Sub Editor - Foster Neville was elected on a general Aye

President – Henry Dyson was re-elected on a general Aye

### **Minute 813 - Reunions 2010/11**

**London Reunion:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010, at Sarasin & Partners LLP, St Pauls Courtyard

**Durham Reunion:** To be confirmed, but provisionally 16/17 March 2011.

**American Reunion:** There will be a North American reunion 13-15 August at Forbes College, Princeton.

### **Minute 814 - AOB**

The Master noted that the jubilee project appeal is not yet closed, and encouraged members of the Association to keep contributing. It was noted that Jubilee will officially finish at the end of the Easter Term marked with a service in the Cathedral. The appeal has generated liquidity of £250k including and one very large contribution from the estate of Thetis Blacker. Other income streams have also generated monies that will be match by the University. Of the proposed 5 phases to the project the first 2 are now able to be progressed, these are: the extension and modernisation of the Victor Watts Library and extension of the JCR by ~7-8 meters making room for a shop, an office and a quieter JCR space.

**The president drew the meeting to a close at 15:06**