

Grey College Association AGM Minutes
18 April 2009
4:00pm

Minute 796 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence have been received from Tom Cliff, Ben Whitley, Peter Swift, Kevin Hill and John Wadsworth

Minute 797 – Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the 2008 AGM were approved on a general Aye and were signed as a true record by the President. There were no matters arising.

Minute 798 – President's Report

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the College's founding and special arrangements have been made for the Reunion weekend. The President reported that the process of University centralisation had led to the formation of Events Durham which is now responsible for all conferences and external events within the University and the Colleges. We are fortunate in having a supportive Bursar, Karen Blundell, and College staff such as Julie Bushby, who allow us some flexibility in booking and managing the Reunion weekend. This will not change while the existing College Officers are in place but, at some future date, we will have to co-operate with Events Durham and accept the higher pricing levels applied to external events.

The President is a member of College Council and has represented us at three meetings in the last year. The Association is independent of the University and has its own bank account and receives subscriptions from new life members. The increase in subscriptions was implemented with the full support of the JCR. The President also attended three formal dinners in College, which were sponsored by the Association, and which were well attended by members of the JCR.

Grey Matters Magazine has been published once again and posted to approximately 7,000 members. The President thanked Foster Neville for his help in preparing this special 50th Anniversary issue, which took around three weeks work and he apologised for a number of typographical errors which had appeared in the final version. Plans to e-mail the magazine and thereby save on the substantial mailing costs have been thwarted by the fact that only 500 members' e-mail addresses are recorded on the database maintained by the University Development Office. Efforts will be made to improve this in the future.

Minute 799 – Treasurer's Report and Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Annual Accounts for the year to 31 January 2009 and a budget for the four year period to 31 January 2013. The accounts showed an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £1,689 compared to a deficit of £5,421 the previous year. The financial position was helped by the increase in subscriptions which had been implemented for 2008/09 freshers and also by a number of generous donations. A collection at the 2008 Reunion dinner had raised £1,283 and £10,000 was received from an anonymous donor to assist with the 50th Anniversary celebrations. Also £1,000 was received from the Friends of Grey to cover the Awards made at the Floreat Dinner.

There was also a small surplus on the 2008 Durham Reunion which, in most years, makes a small loss. Three College formal meals were sponsored at a cost of £2,988 to help market the Association to the JCR and to introduce the Business Angels Scheme. The largest costs for the Association were the printing and postage for Grey Matters.

The budget showed that, in the absence of large donations, a deficit could be expected in 2009/10 but that this would be eliminated in the following year as the increase in the membership subscription rate took full effect.

The Treasurer thanked the College Accountant, Jennifer Champley, who has given her own time to book-keeping duties for the Association.

Minute 800 – Subscriptions and Fundraising

The President proposed to hold a voluntary collection during the evening's dinner in aid of the Grey College Trust Jubilee Development Fund.

Minute 801 - Election of Officers

There were no new nominations for the posts of Association Officer but the existing officers were all prepared to serve a further term.

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

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

Vice Presidents – Ben Whitley and Janet Gyllenspetz were re-elected on a general Aye

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

Minute 802 - Reunions 2010

The next Reunion will be held at Grey College on 9, 10 and 11 April 2010. The London Reunion will be held on 18 September 2009 at Topo Gigio restaurant in Brewer St, Soho.

Minute 803 - Association Awards

It was agreed that the Association Travel Awards would be funded by the Friends of Grey College until further notice.

Minute 804 - AOB

It was noted that the Association website was out of date and Richard Hilton offered to assist the Secretary with this. A number of members objected to the introduction of a seating plan for this year's dinner. The President said this had been necessary to assist College staff with the higher numbers this year and would not be repeated next year.

The President drew the meeting to a close at approximately 5:00pm.