

Grey College Association AGM Minutes
16th April 2016 at 4pm, Pennington Room, Grey College

Minute 863 - Welcome

The President welcomed members to the 2016 AGM. Those present:
J Gyllenspetz, D Baldwin, T Cliff, A Petch, P James, S Dean, D Budgen, S Bell, N Griffiths, G Simpson, I Devlin, JEarp, P Swift, S Gregory, T Allen (Observer) , T Fox(ObsERVER).

Minute 864 – Apologies for Absence:

C Jewkes, A Sparrow,R Hilton, D Clark

Minute 865 – Approval of Minutes of 2015 AGM:

The minutes were approved (proposed: A Petch, seconded T Cliff) on a ‘General Aye’ and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes: The President reported that the question of collecting membership fees for graduates joining Grey from outside has still not been resolved.

Minute 866 – President’s Report:

A steady year, with 2 successful Formals again partly sponsored by the Association, Grey Matters issued and a dinner for JCR presidents held in College in July 2016 with much support from Nick Klein. Sadly, only 8 Presidents/ Senior Men attended, but we should consider repeating in 5-10 years as an Association event. Honours list scroll is now hanging in JCR.

Not possible to run Careers Workshop or Mock Assessment Centre this year – insufficient resources to manage these. Intend to reinstate a.s.a.p. to maintain good relations with JCR & College.

The planning for refurbishing Fountains Hall continues, and the Association has already contributed £40k towards the College’s share of the expected £1 million cost. Work is expected to start in summer 2016 or Jan/ Feb 2017.

If no new President is elected this afternoon, the Exec members will cover the tasks between them while the post remains vacant.

Minute 867 – Treasurer’s Report:

The President presented this report on behalf of the Treasurer

Financial position is healthy, with increase over last year’s income from reunions & JCR subscriptions and decrease in contribution to Jubilee Fund. Total of £30.2 K, including reserve of £5.3 K

The figures for Subscriptions and Reunion income have been crossed over on the accounts presented – CJ to correct.

Minor accounting adjustment of 2.2K in favour of the Association made to reconcile accounts with Bank Statements because of uncashed historic cheques.

For 2016,[t is intended to switch to online banking with NatWest, for convenience. Only Kellie & Association Treasurer to have access to the PIN, card reader and passwords for security.

Janet Gyllenspetz asked if all our payees can take online payment and the President reported that this is not expected to create any problem. The existence of a separate reserve account was queried ; historically this gave us a higher interest rate

Minute 868 – Subscriptions & Fundraising:

On behalf of the Exec ,the President asked the meeting to consider a change of rules re membership of the Association. Originally, life subscriptions were paid over three years with membership starting after full payment and graduation .Students now pay the whole £51 fee on Battels in their first Term at Grey, and it is therefore proposed that membership of the Association (along with voting rights) should begin when the appropriate fees have been paid in year 1 ,including ‘external’ postgrads. Approval of the proposal will require a change to the Association’s Constitution . Andy Petch asked if there was a danger of a skewing of balance on the Exec if students were allowed to be elected before their final year, and the President agreed that this could happen. Ian Devlin asked if the current offer of free attendance at the first Durham reunion dinner after graduation would continue, which the President confirmed.

The proposal was approved on a ‘general aye’, with the proviso that only graduates would be allowed to stand for election as President and/or Treasurer of the Association.

Minute 869 – Election of Officers:

Tom Cliff formally stood down as President, and those present thanked him warmly for his loyal service to the Association in various roles over a number of years. No candidates offered themselves, so the Presidency remains vacant for the present.

The other Officers were all willing to continue in their posts, and were elected on a ‘general aye’.

Minute 870 – Reunions 2016/7:

Over 100 attendees at the 2015 London drinks event at Champagne Charlie's .The Informal format and digital-only publicity will continue for this year's event on Friday 23/09/2016 event, to be held at the same venue (no deposit required). JCR President will be asked to promote this event at Leavers' Formal.

DB has been approached about a North –West regional reunion in June or September/ October 2016. TC will check Manchester area venues.

Minute 871 – AOB:

The availability of photos from 1961-5 in the Archive was reported.

The Boat Club needs a new eight to replace the one we bought some years ago, and Tom Fox addressed the meeting on behalf of GCBC. He had personally raised £3150 with a 24 hour rowing challenge and the President proposed (seconded by multiple members) that the Association should match that amount. Boat Club funds will be used to make up the total of £8500 needed to buy a suitable boat from Kings School, Chester. In support of the proposal, Neville Griffiths spoke of his pride in the achievements of the Boat Club, and asked about naming opportunity for the new boat. Tom Fox replied that re-naming a boat is considered unlucky and that this should be kept until the future purchase of a new women's four. The motion was passed unanimously.

The President thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 5.00 pm with a reminder that the Bar will open at 6.30 pm.