



Minutes of the Ninetieth 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 10th September 2018. The President, Mrs. Faye Carruthers, was in the chair.

Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting:

The Minutes of the Eighty-Ninth Annual General Meeting were distributed and unanimously adopted.

Apologies

Apologies were heard from: Mr. James Andrew, Miss. Erin Newbigging, Mrs. Nan Atherton, Mr. Martin Gallagher, Miss. Jennifer Stewart, Mr. Dean Barr and Mr. John Pears.

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 received an email asking what The Old Grammarians' Club does. Mrs. Faye Carruthers looked back on the club's constitution, so she could respond in the most accurate way. Her response was "to promote the school, host Senior Luncheons and arrange an annual Ball, which this year raised money for Accord Hospice. The club also facilitates former pupils and staff members regaining contact, produces two newsletters a year, keeping members up-to-date, has a spread in the Grammarian Magazine, uploads 'throwback Thursday' photos on the Facebook page and support school events such as school shows, career events and awarding a two Sixth-Year student with the Old Grammarian Prize each year". Sadly, this year due to GDPR, the club has lost some email contacts, but we hope to gain more through a strong relationship with the school.

The President spoke of raising money for Accord Hospice and the positive influence this had on the committee, encouraging us to work harder knowing the money raised would be going to such a good cause. It also allowed a strong bond to be formed with the club and the charity, in particular, Mr. Kenneth Mathie who is the Head of Income Generation for Accord, as well as being an Old Grammarian.

Secretary's Report:

Mr Ross Brisco, advised of the difficulty of putting a number on the Club's membership in the digital age and so the Secretary estimates we have approximately 1000 members across our electronic platforms.

This year we have had a hit on our newsletter list due to the new GDPR regulations. Previously the club had 450 members with only a 60% open rate. However now we only have 231 members, but the open rate for the newsletter has increased to over 90%, meaning we have been able to retain the members who are actively engaged with the club.

The Secretary would like to thank Mr. Melvyn Haggarty for all his hard work in collecting membership emails over the years and Mr. Ross Brisco is sure the club will be able to rebuild its membership numbers over the next few years.

The Facebook group has exceeded the 1000 follower mark and currently sits at 1191 followers. This has been spurred by an increase of the 'throwback Thursday' posts, which the Secretary would like to thank Mrs. Faye Carruthers for the idea in the beginning and her support in scanning photos from The Grammarian magazines.

The Club has received an addition 18 requests to become official lifetime members and the club has received five donations as a result of these requests to join as members.

The Secretary welcomes new members to take over his role as he prepares to take on his new position and thanks to the committee for their support in sharing his responsibilities over the last year.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer, Mr. Connor Craig, 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. 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 Accord Hospice, thanks to the generosity of those who attended the 90th Old Grammarians Ball. The club saved money on the ball by changing from a live band to a DJ, along with 80 tickets bought and 79 of them attending.

The audit took place, with Mr. Willy Beaty checking our accounts and we thank him for his time.

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.

The Annual Old Grammarian's Ball was a great success and enjoyed by all. Tam the DJ was excellent at getting the crowd up and dancing, by providing a good mix of music. The club received donations from Tunnocks that were used on the tables, along with balloons from Balloons Around the World who reduced the overall cost for our decorations. We were also donated a large variety of raffle prizes ranging from restaurant vouchers to a table for 8 people at Accords Harry Potter themed ball. Our social convener Miss. Karen Millar took the photos for the evening that were a great success and thoroughly enjoyed on all of our social media platforms. The tables were named after well-known Paisley landmarks and buildings.

The next Ball will take place on Friday 1st March 2019 at the Glynhill Hotel.

Note: since the AGM the date of the ball has been changed to Friday 8th March 2019.

Golf Report:

R. Y. Corbett Memorial Salver:

The competition was played this year at Ralston Golf Club on 28th August 2018.

12 members took part and the winner was Peter Fleming, Ralston Golf Club, with an excellent score of 38 stableford points, runner up was Jim Park, Ranfurly Castle, and third James Andrew, Ranfurly Castle.

AGM, 28th August 2018:

The future of the golf section was the main topic. The list below was issued to all email members on 18th July 2018, seeking their views:

1. Cancel this year's outing at Ralston due to lack of numbers 7 committed and 1 possible. Yes and No's attach. Not cancelled as 12 attendees.

2. Select only Ranfurly Castle or Western Gables where we have a reasonable number of members. This would keep cost down which has been indicated by a few as an issue. Cheaper deals are the order of the day!
3. Have final bash next year at Ranfurly Castle with no charge and blow the kitty! Good prizes and a nice dinner.
4. Continue to support the team this year and next in QE entry. Thereafter if they wish to continue on their own.
5. Members try and get new young (ex-grammarian) blood into the club otherwise it will die in the next two to three years.
6. Write to the various clubs in our area and ask them to put a notice up to see if we can attract new blood.

Various responses from 10 members were received and discussed. The consensus was as noted and circulated to all members with an email address:

1. Rotation of 3 clubs for next 3 years: - Ranfurly Castle, Western Gables and Ralston.
2. Continue to support the QE entry to encourage younger and more proficient golfers to support the golf section
3. Attracting new members involved various ideas and the final outcome was to try social media. I will speak to John Grant to see if this can be set up.

It was certainly one of the best outings in recent years, with the private dining proving a real hit, as lots of stories and laughter for about an hour after all proceedings completed. Delighted to conclude by saying that there was 100% agreement to continue with the golf society and that the friendships from the school association are real.

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 22-24 September 2018 at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh.

Last year the undernoted team lost to Carthusians

Peter Fleming & Stuart Storrie lost 1 down
 Graham Clark & Douglas Martin lost 4&3
 Andy Reid & Peter Morton won 4&2.

Membership:

The Club stands at 80 life members.

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.

Special Report – Senior Luncheons:

The first lunch of the year was a great success with 64 people in attendance to hear Mr. Robert Love speak.

The upcoming lunch will celebrate the clubs 90th birthday and will be called 'The Grammarian Lunch'. The speakers are Mr. Hugh Nisbet and Ms. Joyce McMillian. A miniature concert will celebrate old school shows and memorabilia will be on display, including The Grammarian Magazines.

School Report

Our new school contact is Mrs. Fiona Hewitt who has been keeping the committee updated on the school news.

The school has been looking its values and created a 3rd-year leadership group to choose three new values, which were decided on by pupils, staff and parents. These new values are; compassion, integrity and success.

They are also encouraging some healthy competition between Island groups through 'The Island Games' and Chess matches.

Election of the Office Bearers

Honorary Presidents:

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

Mr. Hugh Nisbet was unanimously elected as an Honorary Vice-President on the motion of the President.

Mr. George Miller has stepped down as Honorary President and will now be added to the list of Honorary Vice-Presidents.

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; Mr. John Pears and Mr. Donald John Morrison.

Election of Executive Office-Bearers:

Mrs. Nan Atherton has stepped down from the committee and we thank her for her dedication and service to the club over the years.

The President Mrs. Faye Carruthers is also stepping down from President. Mr. Ross Brisco was proposed, duly seconded and unanimously elected as President.

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

Mr. Ross Brisco proposed the former president, duly seconded and unanimously elected as Honorary Vice-President.

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)
Mrs. Fiona Hewitt (School Representative)
Miss. Sophie Hutchison and Miss. Rachel Hepburn (Heads of School)

Closure

There being no further business, the date of the next Annual General Meeting was then set for Monday, 9th September 2019.

Special Thanks

President Mr. Ross Brisco would like to thank Mrs. Faye Carruthers for her commitment to the club. He also thanked the committee and Mr. Martin Gallagher for his time with the club and we are looking forward to working with Mrs. Fiona Hewitt further. The President proposed President Emeritus Mrs. Faye Carruthers as Honorary Vice-President duly seconded and unanimously elected.