

# FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN

*Founded 1774*



## OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Old Scholars' Association held at Friends' School Lisburn on Friday 11 May 2018

**PRESENT:** Ashley McCausland, Brian Mairs, Stephen Moore, Donald Patterson, Brian Moller, Liz Palmer, Maxine Boyd, Gerald Crawford, Mary Crawford, Mary Donnelly, Denis Wilson.

**APOLOGIES:** Trevor Green, Barry Stange, Kay Rogers, Aidan Pearson, John Stange.

#### 1 WELCOME

Ashley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. She thanked Rueben, Anya, Jasmin, Isla and Tilly for their very enjoyable music.

#### 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were agreed as an accurate record.

#### 3 REPORTS

##### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Ashley ran through a varied list of the events she had planned during her year as president. While some were very successful, such as the table quiz, which raised £660 for Audio Visual equipment for the school, some were less so. Unfortunately, the President's evening made a loss as it failed to attract the numbers hoped for.
- Another quiz is to be held later in the week and it is hoped that a similar sum may be raised to enable the purchase of rowing machines for the gym.
- The careers evening was a great success both with a pleasing level of engagement from both the Old Scholar volunteers who offered their advice and the pupils who were keen to discuss their career paths. It is hoped that this event may be repeated.
- It has become increasingly difficult to attract Old Scholars to planned events in spite of our significant presence on various forms of social media. It is hoped that the magazine may soon be available on the Facebook page.

##### SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Maxine reiterated Ashley's concerns about falling numbers both at today's meeting and at events during the year, which Ashley had worked very hard to organise.
- One of the main issues of the committee was the difficulty of encouraging membership and arranging events of interest to all.
- The magazine was available before Christmas this year, which was pleasing. We continue to hear from members who have perhaps misunderstood the opt-in policy and are disappointed at not receiving a copy. We hope to have these teething troubles ironed out in time. Thanks must go again to John Stange for all his hard work seeking out contributors and editing the content.
- The Archive Room continues to be a great resource and thanks and appreciation must go to Mr Chapman for his continued hard work therein. The committee regularly receives e-mails from old scholars and complete strangers to the school requesting information. He now has the assistance of Mary Hewitt and we are thankful that she is interested in helping out.

- Maxine expressed her thanks to Joanne McGaffin for all her help in dealing with the administration of the committee and to Mr Moore for his continued support of and interest in the work of the organisation.
- Thanks are also due to Braid and her staff for the catering at events such as this and to John and his team for enabling access to the building when required.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Brian reported that the association is in a healthy financial position and is able to make a sizeable payment to the school each year for equipment.
- Although the president's evening reported a small loss, the table quiz was very successful.
- Ashley thanked Brian for all his work.

#### **PRINICIPAL'S REPORT**

- Mr Moore gave a brief summary of the continuing academic success of its pupils. The GCSE and A level results this year were the best ever, which is great news although perhaps not for our coffers as so many more monetary prizes have to be awarded!
- For the second time the school has received The Sunday Times Award, which is a measure of the hard work of all involved – staff, pupils and parents.
- In terms of sport, success this year has been particularly notable on the hockey pitch. FSL won the Burney Cup for the first time in 40 years. In fact FSL is the most successful team in the competition being the current holder and the school with the most wins since the foundation of the competition.
- There was a successful school production of Annie in October.
- Mr Moore expressed his thanks to the Association for their support and his wish for this to continue.

#### **4 OFFICE BEARERS**

Ashley raised concerns about the viability of the election of office bearers given such a poor turnout to the meeting. It was decided that the issue should be raised at the next ordinary meeting and discussed with reference to the revised constitution.

#### **5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- The change in format over the years of the AGM and the president's dinner was discussed at length. In its previous incarnation, as a dinner in the school dining hall, preceded by the AGM, numbers had been falling.
- It is recognised that some old scholars travel a considerable distance to attend the AGM and though many enjoyed the informal dinner at school, many felt that it was not enough to attract some younger members of the association. We will have to work hard to come up with a format that will attract more people!
- It was suggested that many members would be happy to receive the magazine in digital format. This will be investigated as a possibility.

#### **6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Annual General Meeting of the Old Scholars' Association will be held in May/June 2019 – to be confirmed.