



OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**20th December 2014
12.00pm Ripon Grammar School**

Present:

Nicky Woolfenden, George Owrap, Derek Crookes, Jenny Bellamy, Anne Harrison, Greta Hills, Claire Green, Hannah Hale, Marita Murray, Kevin Auger, Emil Brown, Tony Ellender.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were presented, and accepted as a true record.

Matters arising: None.

President's report

The President reported that the Association's activities during 2014 were very well supported and were a credit to the thorough organisation of the many volunteers.

Our key activities during the year were reviewed

ORA Reunions.

The 2013 Winter Reunion was again well attended with enthusiastic support for the sporting events. We are anticipating similar success this year with thanks to the school's input from Siobhan & Mike and the sterling efforts from Hannah, Toby & George in organising the 2014 hockey & soccer teams.

Our late summer reunion was organised to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1. The event was held over two days, the first day involving our current students with a sounding of the Last Post and a reading a poem by Wilfred Owen during the unveiling of a new plaque on the Memorial Field commemorating the 49 Old Riponians who gave their lives.

This commemoration was then repeated on the Sunday at the ORA reunion.

On behalf of the committee, Nicky wishes to thank all who contributed to the event, especially Claire for her design and delivery of the 2014 commemoration plaque and Greta and Derek for all their research revealing the life stories of the Fallen from RGS.

2014 Recruitment of School Leavers.

Our current offer of free membership again allowed us to sign up the majority of this year's leavers. Also encouraging is that during our presentation to the leavers, a very large percentage offer their help as being a 'year rep' or are willing to help as university reps. We hope this will be an indication that they will continue a life long association with RGS.

Support to the School

We have continued with our aim to use the ORA annual income to support school activities.

These have included:-

- purchase and sponsorship of the First XV rugby shirts
- purchase of books to support the 6th form reading group
- purchase of display shelving for the Careers Department
- purchase of new software to aid the production of the Clocktower magazine

Looking forward to 2015

Reunions

We are aiming to focus on the winter reunion as our main annual event.

We will still look to deliver other major events as required as we did for the 50th anniversary of the amalgamation of the School with Ripon Girls High School.

In September 2015, we, with the school governors are looking at the feasibility of a reunion in London

Careers Advice Initiative.

In this initiative led by George, we are planning in 2015 to open up access for current students and recent school leavers to the wide breadth of careers experience that is available from our past RGS leavers.

In conclusion, the President thanked all the ORA committee members for their proactive support during the year.

Secretary's report

The Secretary reported on his key activities during 2014

i) Email & ORA Website

The continued use of email coupled with the regular updating of the Old Riponians website has greatly enhanced our ease of communication with the members.

We have also aimed to enhance the website by the addition of articles about the schools & articles submitted by the membership.

On behalf of the Membership; I again would like thank Euan for his expertise in developing the ORA website and E-communications during his period as our secretary.

ii) Postal Costs

All the members who receive our communications by post have been contacted by phone or letter this year about using to Email to lower the ORA operational costs.

To date this has resulted in 37 members switching to email leaving **95** members still receive hardcopy magazines & letters.

iii) Electronic Archive.

Together with Greta Hills, archiving of the school's current & historical documents is about 50% complete. The E - archive currently contains ca 20,000 documents & photos.

iv) Membership

This year's total is 621 [Members 439; ORA school leavers 182]

The ORA Trustees are Jenny Bellamy; John R Lodge; Frederick M Metcalfe & Julia H Beer

Treasurer's report

The Accounts were presented to the meeting. (See appendix 1)

In summary, the ORA balance of expenditure over income during 2014 was £916.75 leading to the overall balance in the ORA capital account of £11,451.52

The apparent loss reflects that our major income stream (Memorial Field rent £1300 pa) is not scheduled for payment until early 2015

The significant new items in the accounts were:-

Expenditure:

£763 donation to the school to purchase of the First XV Rugby shirts
£304 for the 2014 World War Memorial Plaque
£198 of legal fees to allow the appointment of Jenny Bellamy as chair of the ORA Trustees

Income:

£500 donation to the ORA.

The authorised signatories for the NatWest capital account have just been updated allowing us to settle our outgoing during the 4th Quarter of 2014 of approximately £500.

In the discussions, it was noted:-

The proposal will be progressed to transfer the remainder of the monies originating from the ORA Trustees account (ie £5000 less the 2013-2014 legal fees) back into a Trustees account to be held as a buffer against future major issues or legal costs.

The Treasurer thanked Fred Metcalfe for his assistance (given at no cost to the ORA) in certifying the accounts.

Election of Committee and Officers

Following the resignations of Jenny Bellamy, Euan Raffell & Simon Hebb, these members were elected unanimously to fill the following roles.

Election to the Committee

	Proposer	Seconder
<i>Nicky Woolfenden</i>	D Crookes	George Oworm
<i>Hannah Hale</i>	N. Woolfenden	George Oworm
<i>Hugh Mchale-Maughan</i>	N. Woolfenden	George Oworm
<i>Edd Riley</i>	N. Woolfenden	D Crookes

Election of

Officers

		Proposer	Seconder
<i>President</i>	<i>N. Woolfenden</i>	D Crookes	George Owram
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Derek Crookes</i>	George Owram	N. Woolfenden
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>George Owram</i>	N. Woolfenden	D Crookes

Discussion of the Proposal to move to Free membership of the ORA

In the discussions, it was noted:-

All the “paid up” ORA members have been contacted by email or post with an outline the benefits of this proposal and asking for their initial concerns. To date 26 formal responses have been received of which 25 were fully supportive of the proposal.

If the proposal is accepted, concerns were expressed as to the need to review the definition of ordinary vs honorary members.

Should a new single level of membership be introduced so removing all concerns re voting and non-voting members?

Would it prove simpler to disband the current ORA and a New Association be created around the premise of free membership for all school leavers and staff?

Should we seek legal advice as to how the assets will be best protected under a new ORA constitution?

Next steps

It was agreed that:-

A formal ballot on the proposal to offer Free Membership of the 439 “paid up” members will be carried out by February 2015.

Post the outcome of the ballot, discussions to take place across the membership should look to build a new OAR constitution for a formal review at an EGM or AGM in 2015. Notification of this meeting to be sent out to members with at least 12 weeks’ notice.

AOB None

Date of next AGM

The following date for the next AGM was proposed as Saturday 19th December 2015. With no further business, the meeting was closed at 1pm.

Appendix 1

OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th SEPTEMBER 2014

2013		2014
	Capital Account	
£11,390	Balance as at 1 st October	12,137.23
£285	Funds from New Life Members	£231.04
£463	Excess of Income over Expenditure	£0.00
£0.00	Excess of Expenditure over Income	£916.75
£12,137		£11,451.52

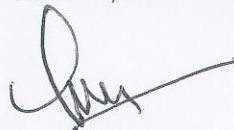
2013		2014
	Current Assets	
	National Westminster Bank PLC	
£12,137	Current Account	£11,451.52
£0.00	Stocks of ORA Ties & Scarves at cost	£0.00
£12,137		£11,451.52

OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2014

<u>2013</u> Expenditure	<u>2014</u>
240 RGS News	240.00
160 Postages and Stationery	0.00
0 Database Expenses	0.00
0 Officers' expenses	0.00
300 Post Match Catering	140.00
0 Rugby Insurance	0.00
0 Hockey Insurance	0.00
0 Staff Retirement Presentations	0.00
49 Ties and scarves stock written off in year	0.00
0 Website	0.00
1,494 Legal Fees	198.00
828 Donation to swimming pool refurbishment	0.00
155 Plaque for observatory	0.00
40 Old Deanery Dinner	0.00
0 Donation to school for rugby shirts	763.00
0 Retirement gifts, thank you presents, flowers etc	220.00
3,266	1,561.00
Income	
60 Annual Subscriptions & Donations	644.25
3,101 Rent of Field (N.Y.C.C.)	0.00
0 Tie Sales	0.00
527 Donations to swimming pool refurbishment	0.00
40 Old Deanery Dinner	0.00
Interest	
0 National Westminster Bank PLC	0.00
3,728	644.25
463 Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure	0.00
0 Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income	916.75

The above Accounts are certified to be in accordance with the books, bank statements and vouchers examined



F.M. Metcalfe F.C.C.A.
Hon Auditor

30th November 2014