



OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

19th December 2015
12.00pm Ripon Grammar School

Present

Nicola Woolfenden, George Oworm, Derek Crookes, Jenny Bellamy, Greta Hills, Claire Green, Hannah Hale, Toby Kinread, Louise Vast, Marin Pearman, Kevin Auger, Emil Brown, Tony Ellender, Eddie Dale, Chris McDonnell.

Apologies: Marita Murray, Anne Harrison.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were presented, and accepted as a true record and saved into the RGS Electronic archives.

Matters arising: None.

President's Report

The President reported that the Association's activities during 2015 were very well supported and thanked all members of the committee as well as the many volunteers involved.

ORA 2014 Reunion

There was a good turnout of both players and spectators for the 2014 Winter Reunion and we were delighted to welcome some Old Riponians from as far afield as Japan and Australia.

Following the matches, the use of the Library for refreshments (as opposed to the school hall) proved a great success and there was a wonderful atmosphere as former pupils, families and friends caught up over a cup of tea or glass of wine in the comfortable and welcoming surroundings. Visitors were able to access the digitised school archives on the library computers and it was clear that this was appreciated and enjoyed by all those who used it.

Clocktower magazine

The Clocktower magazine continues to go from strength to strength. Grateful thanks go to Ruth Savage whose hard work and commitment to the magazine is breathing new life into RGS's alumni community. It is hoped that the remarkable news and stories of former pupils will inspire the new generation of Old Rips.

Free Membership Proposal

A major initiative for the Association this year was to obtain the members' views on the committee's proposal to offer free membership of the Association to all school leavers. Our aim is to make the Association as inclusive as possible, encouraging all students to maintain contact with the school throughout their lives. We are pleased that our 3 year trial offering an initial free membership period has resulted in the vast majority of our leavers joining the ORA. In addition, many leavers have offered to become 'Reps' for their year groups, ensuring that social contact between former pupils is made easier in the future.

New 3G All Weather Pitch

The proposal for a new all-weather pitch to replace the 'Colts rugby pitch' is still very much in the planning phase. The current plan will require the use of a significant part of the ORA's Memorial Field. The facility has been offered at no cost to the school but is dependent on the progress of a housing development on Whitcliffe Lane.

The offer presents a real opportunity to improve our sports facilities. The facility will be open for use by Ripon residents and would be used by the school for soccer matches and for Rugby matches up to the U16s.

Support to the School

We have continued with our objective to use the ORA annual income to support school activities. This year we have purchased two major items aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of the students:-

- Re-usable sports cap water bottles with the RGS logo for every student
- Sport Teams' bibs for use on sports day and other house competitions

Looking forward to 2016

Reunions

We will continue to focus on the Winter Reunion as our main annual event but together with the school and the school governors, we are still looking at the feasibility of a reunion in London.

Use of Social Media

Toby has volunteered to review and then re-launch our presence on Twitter & Facebook to allow to us to improve our communications with the school's alumni.

Vote of Thanks

Nicola, on behalf of the membership, praised the work carried out by the committee throughout the year. Special thanks were given to Derek Crookes, the ORA secretary for his unstinting work and generosity - we are extremely lucky to have someone who is so committed to supporting the Association and the school. Thanks were also given to Greta Hills, in particular for her help with Ripon Heritage Day. Jenny Bellamy and the other Trustees were thanked for their support and for the extra work involved this year with negotiations for the proposed 3G pitch.

And finally, Nicola thanked Martin and all the staff at RGS and congratulated them on another excellent year in which the school has achieved success in so many different areas.

Trustee's report

The Land Holding Trustees are responsible for the administration of the Memorial Field and Memorial Stone - the lasting tribute to the Old Riponians who fought and gave their lives in World War 1.

During 2015 the Trustees renegotiated the lease and rent for the field and are working with North Yorkshire County Council to ensure that any 2016 plans for the 3G pitch will maintain the dignity of the two War Memorials

ORA Trustees: Jenny Bellamy (Chair); John R Lodge;
Frederick M Metcalfe & Julia H Beer

Secretary's Report

Membership Records

The ORA membership list has now been updated & combined with the 'Alumni' List held by the school. Our target will be to update the membership details each autumn for both the ORA and the School.

We have continued to contact the members who receive our communications by post as our wish is to use email where possible. Following a mail shot to these members, we have achieved a further reduction from 95 to **32** members who still wish to receive printed letters etc.

***Membership:* Total: 840**

Members with *confirmed* addresses: 697
Members with *unconfirmed* addresses: 143

ORA Website

Following the RGS website redesign in March, the day to day management of the Alumni web pages is now carried out by the School Administrators. We all thank Chantal Lancaster for her input & support in keeping our pages current.

Membership ballots

The views of the membership were collated by email & postal ballots on two major issues arising in 2015:-

- The proposal to offer free ORA membership
- Views on the proposal to use a corner of the Memorial Field for a 3G Artificial Pitch

RGS Archives

Together with Greta Hills, archiving of the school's current & historical documents is still moving forward (ca 21,000 documents & photos) with maybe 10,000 documents to go!

We would also like to thank the school for providing a larger Storage Room allowing us the space to index and store many of the original documents.

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts were presented to the meeting. (See appendix 1), in summary, the balance sheet as at 30th September 2015 states:

2014		2015
	Capital Account	
12,137.23	Balance as at 1 st October	11,451.52
£231.04	Funds from New Life Members	£0.00
£0.00	Excess of Income over Expenditure	£0.00
£916.75	Excess of Expenditure over Income	£1,904.19
£11,451.52		£9,547.33

The overall spend this year of £3202 reflects our aims to use our ORA funds to support the school's initiatives and includes several items (eg Memorial Plaque, Magazine Racks) that were progressed in 2014 but were paid for in 2015.

The significant items in the accounts were:-

Major Expenditures:

- £1852 donation to the school to purchase of the Water bottles and House bibs
- £375 donation to the school to purchase of Magazine racks
- £304 for the 2014 World War Memorial Plaque

Income:

£1299 Rent for the Memorial Field (NYCC)

In the discussions, it was noted:-

Our aims for 2016 & 2017 are to ensure a more balanced budget to maintain the ORA reserves at ca £10,000. This will therefore limit the level of our funding support to the school at ca £1000 per annum.

Our ongoing expenditures (postage, catering, RGS News) continue to fall year on year.

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

Proposal to move to Free Membership of the ORA

At the 2014 AGM, the Committee lead a discussion on a proposal to offer Free Membership. The long term financing of the Association would be covered by the annual rent from the Memorial Field. Our goal in offering Free Membership for all former students and staff of Ripon Grammar School and RGHS would be to greatly improve ORA's ability to promote the interests of the school, enhance the link between all former students and the school, and facilitate social contact between the members of the Association.

A formal ballot of the ordinary members (those who have paid subscriptions) was carried out in the spring of 2015 by both post and email. The result (50% of ballots returned) was that 98% of the votes returned supported the change.

A modified version of the Constitution of the Association to allow free membership was proposed and accepted unanimously by the 2015 AGM

In the discussions, it was noted:-

The committee will contact the membership offering to repay their subscription if requested by the member with a date deadline agreed by the committee.

The Treasurer's accounts paragraphs in the Constitution to be changed to allow the ORA accounts to be reviewed at the AGM rather than be formally audited.

Election of Committee and Officers

Following the resignation of Anne Harrison, these members were elected unanimously to the following roles.

Election to the Committee

	Proposer	Secunder
<i>Derek Crookes</i>	George Oworm	N. Woolfenden
<i>George Oworm</i>	N. Woolfenden	D Crookes
<i>Toby Kinread</i>	Hannah Hale	George Oworm

Election of Officers

		Proposer	Secunder
<i>President</i>	<i>N. Woolfenden</i>	D Crookes	George Oworm
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Derek Crookes</i>	George Oworm	N. Woolfenden
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>George Oworm</i>	N. Woolfenden	D Crookes

AOB

New 3G All Weather Pitch

In Martin's update, he gave an overview of how the project had been proposed to him by the housing development company (Persimmon) & Harrogate Borough Council to provide a sporting development for the City of Ripon.

If the planning applications are approved, the facility will be offered at no cost to the school and a maintenance plan will be developed, again at no cost to the school. The target for the project would be to have the facility open for use by the winter of 2016.

The exact siting of the pitch is still under discussion but currently calls for the use of parts of the 'Colts' and 'First XV' rugby pitches. The First XV pitch is to be re-sited at 90 degrees to its current layout with Persimmon agreeing to provide improvement to the drainage of this part of the Field.

Issues still to be resolved:

- Formal planning application to be submitted.
- The positioning of the 400 metre running track during the summer
- A strategy to safeguard the WW1 Memorial Stone during the construction phases.

In the discussions, it was noted:

The meeting believes the proposal will be a real asset for the school.

The meeting proposed that the best way to safeguard the Memorial Stone would be to put it into storage during the construction phase and the stone to be re-sited in a position agreed by the Committee & Trustees when the development is completed.

Date of next AGM

The date for the next AGM was proposed as Saturday 17th December 2016.
With no further business, the meeting was closed at 1pm.

Appendix 1

OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2015

<u>2014</u>		<u>2015</u>
	Capital Account	
12,137	Balance as at 1st October 2014	11,451.52
231	add: Life Membership	0.00
0	Excess of Income over Expenditure	0.00
917	less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	1,904.19
<u>11,451</u>		<u>£ 9,547.33</u>
	Current Assets	
	National Westminster Bank PLC	
11,451	Current Account	9,547.33
<u>11,451</u>		<u>£ 9,547.33</u>

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

	Expenditure	
240	RGS News	120.00
0	Postages and Stationery	177.60
140	Post Match Catering	60.97
198	Legal Fees	0.00
763	Donation to school for rugby shirts	58.14
220	Retirement gits, thank you presents	26.50
0	Water bottles and training bibs	1,852.00
0	Magazine racks	375.16
0	War Memorial Plaque	304.20
0	Ackrill Media Group	84.62
0	Computer Software for clocktower	144.00
<u>1,561</u>		<u>3,203.19</u>
	Income	
644	Annual Subscriptions & Donations	0.00
0	Rent of Field (N.Y.C.C.)	1,299.00
	Interest	
0	National Westminster Bank PLC	0.00
<u>644</u>		<u>1,299.00</u>
<u>0</u>	Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>0.00</u>
<u>917</u>	Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income	<u>1,904.19</u>

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

30th November 2015

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