



## OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

17th December 2016  
12.00pm Ripon Grammar School

#### Present

Nicola Woolfenden, George Owrap, Derek Crookes, Jenny Bellamy, Greta Hills, Claire Green, Toby Kinread, Louise Vast, Anne Harrison, Euan Raffel, Tim Wolstencroft, John Dodd, John Tennison, Kevin Auger, Emil Brown, Marita Murray

Apologies: Martin Pearman, Hannah Hale, Tom Cavell Taylor, David Cotson

#### 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 2016 were very well supported and thanked all members of the committee and the volunteers involved.

Our aim to make the Old Riponians' Association inclusive and welcoming to all students is proving successful. The vast majority of leavers do now join as can be seen in the growing membership numbers.

#### ***ORA 2015 Winter Reunion***

There was a very good turnout of both players and spectators. So much so, that for 2016, we will return to using the School Hall for the refreshments, so ensuring that visitors can have a bit more space to sit and chat.

In between Christmas and New Year, a rugby match at the school also took place and was enjoyed by all; we thank Jonny Frank for organizing this event.

### ***The Class of 68***

Thirty former students and partners arranged a reunion in April, when they toured the school and had light refreshments with us in the library before leaving to have dinner at the Spa Hotel.

### ***Swinging back to the 60s***

In July, a major reunion was led by David Cotson, when we were able to welcome 70 visitors who attended the schools in the 1960's. The reunion format was enhanced by providing a dinner using outside caterers and a bar (run by the PTA). The day proved very successful and we believe should be a template for future gatherings.

We have offered an open invitation to assist any other year groups or decade groups with future reunions via email & the Clocktower alumni magazine.

### ***Class of 2015***

For the July reunion, 45 of the 2015 leavers also joined us in the evening for a drink and a chat. Thanks go to Nick Edwards for organising the event.

### ***Clocktower magazine***

The Clocktower magazine continues to go from strength to strength. Grateful thanks go to Ruth Savage, the editor, whose skills and tremendous hard work ensure that the magazine is a highly professional publication and is enjoyed by a great many people.

### ***ORA Social Media***

Our thanks go to Toby Kinread who has looked to improve and rationalise our Twitter & Facebook pages. We are progressing with the move to combine the School and Alumni Facebook accounts. The benefits are seen as a simple "one stop shop" to provide all the news about the school.

For news items and links, we will still maintain our separate Twitter account: - @OldRips.

All our communications are sent out by email, so members do not need to join Facebook or Twitter to stay in touch.

**Action:** In discussions it was noted that the Official RGS Facebook page is only used for news & notices. Hence we need to consider whether we prefer the use of ORA pages to build a network for Old Rips to keep them in contact with friends' news & activities.

## ***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 3 major items aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of the students:-

- Sponsorship of the kit & transport to the finals of the Cross Country Cup for both the junior and intermediate girls' teams.
- Display Boards for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Block. The Old Rips will be responsible for one board which will be used to publicise our news & events.
- New rechargeable battery to control the RGS Telescope.

## ***Vote of Thanks***

Nicola, on behalf of the membership, praised the work carried out by the committee throughout the year and their hands-on help ensuring the success of the events during the year.

Special thanks were given to:

Jenny Bellamy and the other Trustees for their support with the negotiations for the proposed 3G pitch.

Derek Crookes, secretary, for the immense work and level of commitment which he has given to the Association over many years.

George Oworm, for his role as Treasurer of the ORA.

Greta Hills & Claire Green, for their much appreciated help at all our events. Greta continues to support the electronic archive and our links to the city on Ripon Heritage days.

Tom Cavell -Taylor, a school governor, attends our meeting and provides useful links with the School Governors' meetings.

And finally, Nicola thanked Martin, Marita, Helen & Kevin for their support and thanked all the staff at RGS for 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.*

The planning proposal for the construction of a 3G all-weather pitch was submitted to NYCC in January 2016. The planning proposal is still under review and has received

feedback from the both local councils. The key issues have focused on the positioning of the facility.

The current version of the plan proposes that the pitch is moved from the “Colts” pitch onto the “First Team” pitch, as such, a significant part of the Memorial Field will be required for the construction.

As stated last year, funding for this facility is still dependent on Persimmon Builders achieving planning permission for a housing development on Whitcliffe Lane.

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

## **Secretary’s Report**

### ***Membership Records***

The annual update to the combined ORA membership and the “RGS Alumni” database was completed in December.

We have also completed our mail shot to the members who receive our communications by post as to our wish is to use email where possible. The list has now been finalised at 26.

<b>Membership:</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Members with <b>confirmed</b> addresses:	<b>915</b>	<b>697</b>
Members with unconfirmed addresses:	143	143
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>840</b>

### ***ORA Website***

The day to day management of the Alumni web pages is now carried out by the School Administrators. We again thank Chantel Lancaster for her input & support to keep our pages current.

### ***RGS Electronic Archive***

Together with Greta Hills, archiving of the school’s current & historical documents is still moving forward (ca 23,000 documents & photos) with maybe 10,000 documents to go!

## Treasurer's Report

The Accounts were presented to the meeting. (See appendix 1), in summary, the balance sheet as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 states:

2015		2016
	<b>Capital Account</b>	
11,451.52	Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	£9,547.33
£0.00	Excess of Income over Expenditure	£1628.00
£1,904.19	Excess of Expenditure over Income	£0.00
<b>£9,547.33</b>		<b>£11,175.33</b>

Membership of the Association is now free so our sole income is that received from the rent of the Memorial Field. The index-linked rent of £1400 is more than sufficient to fund the Association's activities and allows us to use the major part of the monies to support the school.

The major expenditure by the Association was for the summer reunion, but overall this event produced a small profit by the sale of tickets at £20 per head.

Expenditures in 2016 to be added to next year's account include some minor payments for postage and:

- £600 Sponsorship of the girls' Cross Country Cup teams.
- £134 Battery to control the RGS Telescope.

Following the agreed proposal from the 2015 AGM, this is the first year our accounts were not formally audited. Over many years, these audits have been provided free by our trustee Fred Metcalfe. The AGM formally expressed our gratitude for all his help.

## Election of Committee and Officers

These members were elected unanimously to the following roles.

### *Election to the Committee*

	Proposer	Seconder
Greta Hills	Derek Crookes	N. Woolfenden
Claire Green	N. Woolfenden	Derek Crookes

### *Election of Officers*

		Proposer	Seconder
<i>President</i>	<i>Derek Crookes</i>	Greta Hills	N. Woolfenden
Secretary	N. Woolfenden	George Owrap	Derek Crookes
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>George Owrap</i>	N. Woolfenden	Derek Crookes

*Nicola has completed her 3 year term as President and wishes to step down but is willing to continue her commitment to the Association by remaining on the committee.*

*As President and as a committee member, Nicola has given a lot of her time and considerable energy to support our activities and very importantly moved the Association forward to become an inclusive alumni group for all past pupils.*

*A vote of thanks was given to Nicola, together will a small gift*

## **AOB**

### ***Jack Laugher.***

To mark Jack's tremendous success at the Rio Olympics, it was proposed that the Association fund a large photo of Jack to be placed in the swimming pool corridor.

**Action:** ORA Committee

### ***Mentors' initiative.***

The opportunities to use our membership to allow 6<sup>th</sup> formers to discuss possible career options with former students was discussed.

**Action:** Derek to discuss with school career advisor, Francis Wilson how former students could volunteer to pass on experience and advice on future careers.

### ***Former Staff.***

**Action:** The former staff in the Old Riponians' Association to be contacted to ask for contact details for other old staff who may wish to reconnect with the school.

## **Date of next AGM**

The date for the next AGM was proposed as Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Action:** Discuss with school if Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December could be available.

With no further business, the meeting was closed at 1pm.

# Appendix 1

## OLD RIPONIANS' ASSOCIATION

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

<u>2015</u>		<u>2016</u>
<b>Capital Account</b>		
11,451	Balance as at 1st October 2016	9,547.33
0	add: Life Membership	0.00
0	Excess of Income over Expenditure	1,628.00
1,904	less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	0.00
<u>9,547</u>		<u>£ 11,175.33</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
National Westminster Bank PLC		
9,547	Current Account	11,175.33
<u>9,547</u>		<u>£ 11,175.33</u>

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2016

<b>Expenditure</b>		
120	RGS News	0.00
178	Postages and Stationery	0.00
61	Post Match Catering	0.00
0	Legal Fees	0.00
58	Donation to school for rugby shirts	0.00
27	Retirement gifts, thank you presents	0.00
1,852	Water bottles and training bibs	0.00
375	Magazine racks	0.00
304	War Memorial Plaque	0.00
85	Ackrill Media Group	0.00
144	Computer Software for clocktower	0.00
0	Summer Reunion Catering	900.00
<u>3,203</u>		<u>900.00</u>
<b>Income</b>		
0	Annual Subscriptions & Donations	33.00
1,299	Rent of Field (N.Y.C.C.)	1,400.00
0	Summer reunion tickets	1,095.00
<b>Interest</b>		
0	National Westminster Bank PLC	0.00
<u>1,299</u>		<u>2,528.00</u>
<u>0</u>	Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>1,628.00</u>
<u>1,904</u>	Balance being Excess of Expenditure over Income	<u>0.00</u>

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

12th December 2016

George Oram  
Old Riponians Treasurer