

Minutes of The Old Sedberghian Club Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 28th September 2024 at 11.15am in Sedbergh School Library

Present:

Duncan Berry (Chairman), David Calvert (Treasurer), Ben Collins, Neil McKerrow, Bob Graham, David Pearce, Geoff Watson, Katy de la Rivière, John Guthrie, Faith Guthrie, John Morris, Nigel Horsfall, Peter Fuchs, Bill Graham, Hugh Blair, Tess Rossiter, Rodney Swarbrick, Diana Swarbrick, Robin Wild, Bob Umbers.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dan Harrison, Nick Barker, Mark Richardson, Andrew Robertson, Peter Marshall, Norman Berry, Judy Blair.
2. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 30th September 2023 were approved as an accurate record and were signed by the OS Club Chairman, Duncan Berry.
3. **Matters arising:** Freya Findlay has agreed to join the committee with the next meeting being her first.
4. **Director's Review of the last 5 months:** BC spoke to his report highlighting the following:
 - i. **Events** with particular recent successful events in the USA, a 2006 – 2020 leaver reunion in London, Golf, Running, Shooting and the BBC Singers.
 - ii. **Career support/networking** a current initiative involves filming interviews with OS to create a bank of resources for pupils and early career OS.
 - iii. **Marketing/Communication** a hard copy newspaper, Floreat Sedberghia, has been produced in addition to the newsletter and has been well received. The e-newsletter will continue to be published every 4-6 weeks.
 - iv. **Data** A new data researcher, Emily Rowe Rawlence, has been employed since January. In total over 2000 individual OS records have been updated. Data cleansing is a whole team effort within the Development Office.
5. **500th Anniversary Celebrations.** BC shared plans for 2025 events in Bridgewater Hall, the Wilson Run, the Rally Roger, Sedbergh Solstice Stride, Lord's Cricket ground event in September, York Minster Carols and a combined Pilgrimage trip to Arnhem that will meet up with Sedbergh pupils on their battlefields trip.
6. **Other OS events in the next 12 months:** BC commented that in addition to the events listed above there were reunion events planned with a particular focus on age groups that might have school aged children, an event in Munich and a trip to Hong Kong planned.
7. **OS Connect:** BC commented that the high cost, £6000 per annum with a 3 year renew commitment, can no longer be justified. Much of the functionality of the platform can be replicated elsewhere.
8. **Casterton Alumni:** BC commented that it was important that the Club continues to engage the Casterton alumni community. He reported that Founders Day in April was a success and that 20 people had signed up for an event in London on 8th November.
9. **The Sedbergh Association:** JvdV discussed the launch on Speech Day 2024.
10. **OS Sport:** BC reported that there was lots of interest for the May event but that there had been struggles to get players for OS weekend. The rugby had been a particular issue as players for uni and club sides can't be released. The decision has been made to

discontinue OS rugby permanently. Work will be done of re-evaluate OS Sport which will be reported to the AGM next year.

11. **Treasurer's Annual Report:** DC spoke to his report commenting in particular on the £10,000 given by the school for the USA trip and £10,000 to support events. The Foundation has contributed to event costs.
12. Update from the School: JvdV spoke in the absence of the Headmaster, commenting that the introduction of VAT on school fees and other changes to the tax regime are likely to have an impact on our parent body. The VAT increase is being shared with parents who find have an 8% fee increase. The Roger Lupton Scholarships and Bursaries scheme will support families who might not otherwise be able to keep their pupils in school. He commented that parents clearly believe in the school. £10 million pounds have been paid in advance fees. JvdV commented that the Foundation must be a strategic partner to the school and that endowments will be key in securing the future of the school. The parent body will be engaged in donations to a greater extent.
13. **Election of Honorary OS:** Hayley Christy was nominated to become an honorary OS. Ann Hall, partner of late Ian Senior, and Jane Dodd, a member of the school catering team, were also nominated.
14. **Membership of the OS Committee:** The following members were re-elected:
David Calvert – nominated by HB, seconded by NM
Duncan Berry – nominated by RS, seconded by GW
Ben Collins – nominated by BG, seconded by RW
Freya Findlay was elected to the committee, nominated by HB, seconded by BC.
15. **Date of next meeting:** AGM will take place during the May Gala weekend. Details T.B.C
16. **AOB:** RW commented that it was very positive to have a printed newspaper. BG commented that large sums are spent on tours and asked if the return on investment can be calculated. BC replied that there were direct returns for tours. HB commented that visitors from our sister schools in Vietnam and China were on the school site and that OS may come across them on during the weekend.