



ST GREGORY'S SOCIETY

Minutes of the 145th Annual General Meeting held at Downside School on Saturday 17th September 2022 at 12:00 noon

The President, Jonathan Grew (C77), welcomed the seven Members present and opened the meeting with a prayer for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The President noted that the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on last year's Michaelmas Term's Downside Association Super Saturday. There were no matters arising. The minutes were accepted and signed. Jonathan Grew (C77) proposed and Rupert Orchard (R74) seconded.

2. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

The following Elected Councillors were re-elected for a further term of three years:

- Charlie Harbord (R12), proposed by Rupert Orchard (R74) and seconded by Patrick Magee (R71)
- Katy Jane Nannestad (I09), proposed by Rupert Orchard (R74) and seconded by Patrick Magee (R71)

Ken Beedle (R73) was elected as a new Elected Councillor, to serve for three years, proposed by Jonathan Grew (C77) and seconded by all Council Members present.

The following Elected Councillors were thanked for their service, as their terms have now ended:

- Jamie Francis Jones (B84)
- Mel Alcock (S78)

3. CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE ACCOUNTS

The President noted that the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 had been made available to any Member who wished to receive a copy of them.

The President drew attention to the following matters relating to the accounts:

- a. There was a surplus (£7,389) for 2021 (2020: £1,508).
- b. The Society continued to support all OG sports clubs and societies.
- c. The grant of £20,000 to the School's Bursary Fund was agreed.
- d. Evelyn Partners (formerly known as Smith & Williamson) continued to manage the Society's investment portfolio.

The accounts were adopted. Rupert Orchard (R74) proposed, and John Ludlow (C82) seconded.



4. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

It was proposed and approved that Davies Rowbotham & Co continue as Examiner of the Accounts. The President proposed and John Ludlow (C82) seconded.

5. OG MEDAL

The President reminded the meeting that this year two Old Gregorian medals were awarded, one to Dom James Hood (B72) and the other to William White (B14).

6. THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported that he had been able to attend a good number of OG events in the last year. First, there had been the Under 35s Drinks, held at The Landor, Clapham, which was well attended. November and December were busy months, with the London Dinner and Carol Service attracting a good number of people once again, despite a rise in Covid-19. These events will happen again at the end of this year. The President also reminded the meeting that the triennial Madrid Weekend would be taking place from 20th to 23rd October 2022.

The President congratulated the Downside Wanderers Cricket Club on reaching its Centenary year. This milestone would be celebrated at a dinner at Lord's on 13th October.

The President thanked Paige Owen for her efforts as Executive Secretary, as well as Jessica Newman for her continued support to the Society.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President asked Andrew Hobbs, Head, if there were any updates he would like to provide on behalf of the School. The Head reported that on Friday 16th September, Dom John was ordained at Buckfast Abbey. The current Head Boy and Head Girl attended the ordination (a recording of which can be viewed on both Facebook and YouTube) to celebrate with the Monastic Community.

The Head invited Old Gregorians to attend the Downside School Mass in the Abbey Church on any Sunday during term time at 9.30am. Fr Michael Patey, who lives on site, celebrates this Mass each week. Fr Thomas Atthill (S59) sometimes concelebrates with him.

Patrick Magee (R71) asked the Head about the Monks' move away from Downside, and about the future of the Abbey Church and other Monastery buildings. The Head reported that a member of the Community continues to return to the Abbey Church each weekend to celebrate Mass for the local Parish. However, the move did not happen very long ago, so there are still a number of matters to be resolved. The Head reassured the meeting that the School still retained its link with the Manquehue Apostolic Community, and that Dom Leo is still very involved with the Weave of Manquehue Prayer.



John Ludlow (C82), Deputy Chair of Governors, confirmed that the Monastic Community's assets have not gone anywhere, and that this will keep the Community linked to Downside. John congratulated Andrew Hobbs, Head, on his leadership through this challenging time and for ensuring that the ethos of the School remains strong. Lectio Divina continues to provide an opportunity for prayerful reflection; and the Benedictine life within the School is perhaps healthier now than it has been for some time. John concluded that there are therefore plenty of grounds for optimism for the future of the School.

Rupert Orchard (R74) asked how well pupil numbers at Downside were holding up in the current cost of living crisis. The Head reported that the School has retained its numbers, and that fee subsidies are down, which is a good position to be in. The Head also reported that Issy Hartnell is now leading Commercial Enterprises, and that this has led to a full Kings Summer School at Downside across the summer break, as well as Swim Central using the School's swimming pool.

Rupert Orchard (R74) also asked how the School planned to deal with the rise in energy costs. John Ludlow (C82) explained that for the medium term, the School's energy contracts were fixed by Martin Holden, Director of Estates, which means that few areas would be affected.

The President reported that he had been contacted by an Old Gregorian who had suffered throughout his life from the effects of his time at Downside. The President reassured the meeting that through both Bruised Reeds and the School, this and other similar cases were being appropriately supported.

There being no further business, the President closed the 145th AGM at 1:00pm with a prayer for His Majesty King Charles III.