



DOWNING COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 89TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held in the Howard Building on Saturday 24th September 2016

1. Mr Leo Judd, President of the Association, chaired the meeting and welcomed the 35 attendees.

Apologies were received from Mr Jos Bird, Mr David Riddoch, Mr Julian Childs and Mr Peter Thompson.

2. The Minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting were accepted.
3. There were no matters arising other than those covered on the agenda for the present meeting.

4. President's Review

The President noted that the Association had been founded in 1922, four years after the end of the First World War. A mere six years before that, at this time of year, seven Downing men lost their lives at the Battle of the Somme, with one Captain John Green winning a VC. At the time the College was small in numbers and the loss thus relatively great. On a personal note, the President's great-uncle, William Lionel Jenkins, a member of this College, was then serving on the Western Front as a Royal Engineer. The President expressed the members' gratitude to Jenny Ulph, the College Archivist, for highlighting this sombre history on which they could reflect.

The President thanked the Editor of the Association's Newsletter, Barrie Hunt, for the extensive news which it provided, thus making the task of reviewing the year much easier.

The President reported the sad deaths of Peter Mathias, Master from 1987 to 1995, Isabel Butterfield, widow of former Master, Lord Butterfield, and Nigel Allington, Bye-Fellow in Economics.

He noted that last year's Alumni Day was attended by 119 alumni, 5 Fellows and their families and other guests, and that other alumni events organised by the Development Office during the year included the London Event at the Foundling Hospital, the Lincoln College dinner, the Donors' Garden Party and the 1749 Society reception. Events in the coming year would include reunions for those who matriculated in years ending in seven, or in or before 1954.

The three meetings of the Association's Executive Committee in the past year had been well-attended and the President expressed his thanks for their efficiency to Barrie Hunt, the Secretary to the Association, and Norman Berger, the Treasurer.

As reported in the Newsletter, there were a large number of entries from students for the Association's Photographic Competition with many excellent photos, a selection of which had been on display and for sale at Alumni Day. Other ways in which the Association supported the activities of the students in the past year included sponsorship of the 2016 Yearbook.

The Merchandising Working Group led by Kate Dyer had worked very hard throughout the year. In addition to major policy meetings, representatives had set up and manned a stall to sell goods at some twelve events in the year, an undertaking which took time and considerable effort. The President expressed his thanks to Dr Dyer and all those involved and noted that, as a result of the merchandising operation, the Association had been able to provide students with grants totalling some £11,000.

The President thanked Frank Weiss for his outstanding contribution to merchandising over the years, in recognition of which he was to be proposed for election as Vice President of the Association. He also thanked Peter Whittington who had taken on responsibility for the everyday running of the merchandising operation, ably assisted by Norman Berger.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report and accounts were included with the agenda. The accounts were accepted unanimously.

6. Sales of Merchandise

Dr Kate Dyer, Chair of the Merchandising Working Group, thanked all those involved with its work, in particular Frank Weiss who had been instrumental in establishing the successful merchandising operation and Peter Whittington who had recently taken on day-to-day responsibility for it.

Dr Dyer displayed two new items which had recently been introduced, a tote bag designed by alumnus, Sir Quentin Blake, and a large engraved wine glass. She noted that the display of prints from the Photographic Competition had been well-received and many had been sold in the course of the day.

Sales at events and as a result of mailings throughout the year had been buoyant, with a particularly good result at this year's Donors' Garden Party which had been larger than usual as it marked the successful conclusion of the Catalysis campaign. Dr Dyer thanked the Development Office for their invaluable help with both the events and the newsletters. Good sales enabled the Association to award grants to students totalling over £11,000 for such things as books and travel.

Dr Dyer thanked all those who had bought merchandise throughout the year and concluded by inviting ideas for new products.

7. Address by the Bursar

The Bursar offered a formal warm welcome to the Association on behalf of the College. She reported that in the last twelve months many projects had come to fruition, including First Court, Battcock Lodge and the Heong Gallery.

The Gallery was opened by alumnus, Sir Alan Bowness, with an exhibition of works from his private collection. Currently on display were noted Chinese artist Ai Weiwei's Cubes and Trees. These had been logistically difficult to install but were proving extremely popular, with 2000 people visiting on a recent Sunday. 2017 would see an exhibition of works by alumnus, Sir Quentin Blake. Cultural activities within the College had also been enhanced by the improvements to the first floor of the Howard Building and the Theatre continued to provide a venue for some first class productions.

On Lensfield Road, four houses had been restored and would be available for students for the coming academic year, and the purchase of a fifth house was underway. The landscaping of the College was under review and would include a possible piazza outside the library.

As well as a number of awards for being ecologically friendly, the College had recently been classed as providing the best bed and breakfast in Cambridge because of the high standard of its facilities.

8. Election of Officers

President

From President Elect: Sir David Lloyd Jones (1970)

President Elect

Proposed by the Executive Committee: Mr Neville Tait (1962)

Members of the Executive Committee

Proposed by the Executive Committee: Mr Simon Walker (1975)
Ms Katherine Fish (2008)

The following are co-opted members of the Executive Committee:

Prof. Roy Farmer	Website and merchandising
Dr Kate Dyer	Merchandising
Mrs Karen Storey	Merchandising

Hon. Auditors	Dr MJ Mays, Dr RJ Richards
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The Secretary proposed the election of Mr Frank Weiss (1950) as Vice President, a role that is used for those who have served the Association with distinction. He explained that Frank, who was well known to all who attend College events, was coopted onto the Executive in 2005 to develop the merchandise function and had served the Association for eleven years, during which time he had raised substantial amounts of money for the Alumni Student Fund. Despite his health problems he had worked tirelessly in the background, researching suppliers, placing orders for stock and fulfilling the many mail orders.

9. Amendments to Rules 3

The Secretary explained the proposed revisions to Rule 3 included with the agenda, the effect of which was to make Bye-Fellows, Fellows Commoner, Keio Fellows, Pomona Fellows and Virginia Fellows eligible for life membership of the Association.

These amendments were approved in principle at the 2015 AGM but a query was raised about their date of commencement. The Secretary had now

confirmed that it was administratively possible to extend them to apply without time limit and it was therefore agreed that they should so apply.

10. The Annual Dinner

This would take place in Hall following a Reception in the Grace Howard Room. After dinner, drinks would be served in the Howard Building.

11. Any Other Business

The Secretary explained that he was intending to stand down after the 2017 AGM.

The President thanked the Secretary for his contribution to the Association. He stated that a review of the Secretary's role was to take place to determine whether it should in future be undertaken by more than one person, for example by appointing a separate Editor for the Annual Newsletter. He asked that any suggestions for suitable candidates be sent to himself or the Secretary. It was noted that it was not necessary that candidates live in Cambridge.

The meeting closed at 17.45.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 23 September 2017