



DOWNING COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE 90TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held in the Howard Building on Saturday 23rd September 2017

1. Sir David Lloyd Jones, President of the Association, chaired the meeting and welcomed the 44 attendees. Apologies were received from Georgina Erangey, David Garforth-Bles, Karen Storey, Peter Thomson and Roy Farmer.
2. The Minutes of the 89th 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 reported the sad death of David Blackadder. He was a distinguished academic scientist who published some 40 papers on polymer science, as well as supervising PhD students and giving lectures to the final year. In 1983 David became Downing's first full time Bursar, a role he carried out until he retired in 1997. He was in his element as Bursar. He was very good to the Association, appreciating the importance of the alumni. He made significant contributions to the College's building programmes.

The Alumni Student Fund was set up by the Association in 2005 to help students at Downing to meet some of their day-to-day financial pressures. This year 65 students have been helped with grants totalling £9,411.

Each year the Association awards a prize of £300 to the graduating students who have performed best in the year end exams. This year awards have been made to:

- Osaid Ather who read Theological and Religious Studies
- Lea Cantor who read Philosophy.

The theme of this year's photography competition was 'Downing from a Different Perspective'. There were 20 entries from eight students. The winner was Luisa Haertel.

The Merchandising Working Group led by Kate Dyer had worked very hard throughout the year. The President described the new items which this year have a domestic flavour.

Roy Farmer and David James have worked closely with the College to create our new website:

- it is much smarter
- there is linkage through the main College portal
- our merchandise is (quite) easy to access
- it can now be accessed by smartphones and tablets.

There will be a delay before the website includes an e-commerce site function.

The Executive has noted two key upcoming events:

- 2020 will see 40 years since the first admission of women to Downing
- 2022 will be the centenary of the Foundation of the Association .

Consideration is being given as to how to mark these anniversaries and the views of the Association will be sought in due course.

In September 2016, the Honorary Secretary, Barrie Hunt, announced his decision not to continue in office beyond September 2017. The Executive has considered how best to fill this role and concluded that the post-holder should be supported by an Assistant Secretary, who would have responsibility for the merchandising function.

There are a number of departures following this meeting and on behalf of the Association the President thanked them all for their contributions to the Association.

- Leo Judd, who has completed his term as past-President
- David Garforth-Bles and David James who will reach the end of their four-year terms as elected members
- Gabrielle Bennett, Donna Thomas and Rachel Tonkin who have left the Development Office.

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 Merchandise Working Group, thanked all those involved with its work, in particular Peter Whittington.

Dr Dyer displayed the new items which had been described by the President.

There had been a drop in sales earlier in the year due to a problem arising in connection with the design of the College's website.

Sixty percent of sales are made at events, so there is a heavy reliance on members. In addition to Association events there are student events and raffles. The Executive is considering what other events can be attended.

7. Address by the Vice-Master

The Vice-Master, Dr Paul Millett, reported on the College to the Association in the absence of the Bursar who was in California meeting alumni.

For the first time in many years there were no major building projects this year. Of the new buildings, the Heong Gallery has transformed the profile of the College, attracting thousands of visitors. The next exhibition is of works by Elizabeth Frink. The Howard Theatre continues to be a tremendous asset.

The accommodation for post graduates provided by Battcock Lodge has been most welcome. In 1983, there were 25 postgraduates, this year there will be 350.

The College has acquired another property in Lensfield Road. It is being refurbished thanks to the generosity of Foundation Fellow Tadayoshi 'Taz' Tazaki. There are now only two properties on the College side of Lensfield Road which are not owned by the College.

New paving stones have been laid in front of the Library and there has been much planting throughout the domus, especially around the Library. Further afield a rowing tank is being installed in the Boat House. It will be the only one in Cambridge and has been funded by alumni. It is hoped it will provide income for the Boat Club. There were two Blues in the Women's VIII and Holly Hill is in the GB squad.

Performance in the exams was not as strong as in recent years, especially in those subjects where the College has large contingents. In subjects where the numbers of students is small there have been some outstanding performances.

Three fellows are retiring: Trevor Robbins, Ken McNamara and John McCombie. Replacements have been appointed for Trevor and Ken.

There have been a number of departures from the Development Office, including Gabrielle Bennett, who during two stints provided great service to the College. The College is delighted to have made temporary appointments of Catherine Middleton as interim Director and Rachel Kirkley to lead on events. In the meantime, Susan Esden and Claire Varley have stepped up and contributed even more than usual to make a success of Alumni Day and the Association activities.

8. Election of Officers

President

From President Elect: Mr Neville Tait (1962)

President Elect

Proposed by the Executive Committee: Mr Barrie Hunt (1966)

Honorary Secretary

Proposed by the Executive Committee: Mr Simon Walker (1975)

Members of the Executive Committee

Proposed by the Executive Committee: Mr Gareth Davies (1971)
Dr Harriet Groom (2001)
Ms Georgina Erangey (2009)

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

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

Hon. Auditors Dr MJ Mays, Dr RJ Richards

9. 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.

10. Any Other Business

The Vice-Master was asked about College members. He replied that the number of undergraduates would remain at about 125 in each year. For postgraduates it is intended to increase numbers by two percent per annum in line with University policy.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 22 September 2018