

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edward Alleyn Club

Held on Monday 11th of December 2017 at the Clubhouse at 7.45p.m.

In attendance: Paul Barber (Chairman), John Battle (President), Andy Skinnard (representing the Headmaster), David Hankin and Mike Jones (Joint Secretaries), Jim Bridgeman, John Dunley (Vice Chairman), Chris Heayberd (Treasurer), Liz Livingstone, Sue Lane, James Freeman (Clubhouse Manager), Rosalind Archer, Neil French, Kato Harris, Robert Holden, John Knight, Dennis Lomas, Chris Nelson, Keith Rodwell, Graham Swann and Oli Watkins.

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Dr. Gary Savage, Timothy Inge and Jason Peck.
2. The **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**, held on 8th November 2016 were presented by the Chairman, agreed by the Meeting and signed by the President.
3. There were no **Matters Arising**, which would not be covered elsewhere in the course of the Agenda for the Meeting.
4. a) **Annual Report of the Management Board for 2016-2017.**

Paul Barber (PB) noted that a short report from the **Management Board** had appeared in the latest edition of the Magazine, focusing upon three specific areas:

- i) The Management Board had begun the year developing a Business Plan for the Club which, during these discussions, had evolved into a Strategy Document, which it was the intention should, now, be posted on the web-site.
This document focused on the Club as a whole and, so, much more widely than on the Sports Sections alone.
- ii) Much time had, also, been spent on considering the Burbage Road site, where at least 25 years had elapsed since the drainage system had last been addressed, and had worked hard with the School to come up with a viable project, which would involve the Club underwriting a contribution of £40k, to which the Cricket and Football Sections would contribute, whilst the School committed between 1½ to 2 times this amount, depending upon the final cost.
- iii) John Battle (JGB) had, also, undertaken, as part of his Presidential year, to develop a programme, which would widen the club's social activities as part of the Management Board's strategy and, going forward, it was hoped would remain on the Management Board as Events Liaison Officer. The Board would consider what funding might be agreed to "seed fund" this initiative, though many events would be self-financing.

Additionally, over the Summer, the Management Board had been required to become involved in handling a difficult situation concerning a former member of the Tennis Section and PB wished to record his thanks to James Freeman (JF) and Liz Livingstone (EL) for bearing the brunt of this situation, which it was hoped had now been resolved after the Club and the School had worked together to flush out the issues.

Many smaller initiatives had, also, taken place, for example the installation of the keypad entry system on the front door of the Clubhouse and the Management Board hoped to encourage other such improvements in the future.

Keith Rodwell (KR) queried whether the Management Board had the moral authority to make

a commitment to pay a contribution of the level indicated for the drainage project. His recollection was that, 10 years previously, when the Club was subject to a major rent review for the grounds, the School had volunteered to take over the running of the Clubhouse and grounds, which the Club would retain the right to use, whilst the School would be responsible for the outgoings, whilst retaining income.

Additionally, the School had been simply going to hand back the garages to the Dulwich Estate but the Club had negotiated a valuation of £84k for the garages, which the Estate paid over to the Club, which in turn paid over £75k to the School's Bursary Fund. In addition it had contributed £20,000 towards upgrading the Clubhouse and, subsequently, £10k for other works.

He did not think that there was any obligation upon the Club to contribute to the drainage project and, in particular, that the Management Board should have made the commitment without asking for the approval of the Club as a whole.

PB responded that the Management Board was properly constituted under the Club's Constitution and had the right to vote on committing funds. Indeed, it had always agreed to spend both larger and smaller amounts of money, which spending was, then, recorded in the Club's Annual Accounts as submitted to members for approval at the A.G.M. Whilst members might wish that the Club could have continued to manage the Clubhouse and grounds, that situation had become financially and practically unviable and, in the instance of the drainage project, the School would be committing the bulk of the funding and managing the project.

Neil French (NF) recalled that the first A.G.M. post the "integration" of the Club with the School had made clear that the Club would be free of any financial involvement with the grounds and Clubhouse and could concentrate its funds on core activities like the Magazine, the Annual Dinner, the Albyn Benevolent Fund (ABF) and Gap Year sponsorships. Since that time, the Club had spent £30k on the Clubhouse, which he did not object to, but it had now committed to a further £40k for the drainage project.

He had written a letter on the use of the Club's cash balances to the Chairman 3 years previously and continued to see this as a matter of great importance.

PB pointed out that the School had taken on a building and grounds, which were not in the best of states, particularly in terms of meeting the then current health and safety requirements and had spent a great deal on them. Chris Heayberd (CH) added that, at the A.G.M., the membership appointed the Management Board to run the Club on its behalf. Kato Harris (KH) understood that the School had, originally, budgeted a figure of £60k, excluding capital expenditure, to run the Club, which was not a significant sum in the School's accounts. Colin Diggory had been committed to maintaining a close relationship with the Club but it seemed to him that there was a move towards the Club being asked to become increasingly responsible for paying for itself.

John Dunley (JD) felt it appropriate to remind members that the Dulwich Estate had been looking at a rent review, which could have increased the Burbage Road rent to between £18-23k p.a. The Club was, undoubtedly, afforded a very good deal on integration with the School, which, in the process, took on problems arising with the Clubhouse and the grounds but the Management Board had taken the decision to incur expenditure for the benefit of the membership.

In the case of the drainage project, the Club's commitment would enable the project to go ahead, in the absence of which it would lose its hub. KR did not feel that the Burbage Road

users could be viewed as the hub of a club of in excess of 5,000 members.

CH pointed out that the drainage project and the Clubhouse were not the only places to which the Club was allocating its finances, adding that, whilst it had committed to support the project with up to £40k, the Management Board was actively seeking the support of the Cricket and Football Sections to contribute funding to reduce that amount. He also emphasised that the majority of the money would be coming from the School.

JB expressed some frustration at debating past history, when what was needed now was to get the new drainage scheme in place, but NF felt that the Management Board should not be spending the Club's money on things it did not have to do.

Dennis Lomas observed that any one of the 5,000 members KTR had referred to had the opportunity to make his or her view known by attending the A.G.M. or in writing. He asked what would happen if the Club had not committed the £40k funding to the project. PB replied that it would simply not have gone ahead, adding that the level agreed on had only been reached after a process of negotiation.

JD acknowledged that there was scope for the terms of original Licence Agreement between the Club and the School to be varied, pointing out that, at the outset, the Cricket and Football Sections had not been required to pay a subscription but that the conclusion had been reached that it was not reasonable to expect to play sport at the ground without paying a fee. DL observed, too, that it was the times, which had forced a change upon the Club.

JF pointed out that there were 17 football matches scheduled to be played at Burbage Road in December and, currently, 2 inches of standing water, which, if it rose just a little further, would flood the tennis courts as well.

KH felt that the School's actions in regard to the drainage project were positive, necessary, sensible and generous but explained that his beef lay with the way, in which the Management Board had handled things, and that the Club and School should have put forward for wider consideration what the School was proposing.

He was, also, concerned that the Management Board was something of a closed shop, with the same members having been in situ for a considerable time. DH and CH both pointed out that many efforts had been made to attract former pupils to join the Management Board, so that they and other long-standing members could retire, but that this had not proved at all easy.

CH took particular exception to the comment, observing that, whilst the new Treasurer of the ABF was not a former pupil of the School, this had not been for want of trying to find one such. He had made many individual approaches and, personally, would like nothing better than to pass over the reins of the Club's Treasurership, noting that one attempt had been made at this but it had not been successful.

PB responded that, for the past 5 years, both Cricket and Football Sections had complained that the surfaces at Burbage Road were becoming unplayable. The Management Board had liaised with the School on identifying a solution to this problem and he remained of the view that the position reached by the Management Board, whereby it had negotiated that it would commit £40k of a total £120k to install a new drainage system was the right decision.

He emphasised, though, that the Management Board was keen to consider proposals and ideas to spend the Club's financial resources in a broader way. He acknowledged, too, that, this year, there had been some difficulties associated with advertising the A.G.M. and in placing the Minutes of the previous year's A.G.M. in a prominent position on the web-site but that efforts would be made to improve upon this.

In response to NF, the Chairman explained that the Strategy Document had been prepared by the Management Board, which had presented it to the School.

The Meeting approved the Annual Report for the Year 2016-2017:

For: 10

Against: 1

Abstentions: 4

b) Reports from Affiliated Sections

Edward Alleyn Golf Society

DL reported that membership numbers were well up. Membership continued to remain free for those in full time education.

Tim Wareham was the Society's Captain for the year, whilst John Knights had held the prestigious position as President of the All Surrey Golf Captains.

In the forthcoming year, the Club was looking forward to having its first lady Captain in place in Tracy Bridgman, whilst its 50th Anniversary meeting would be held at Purley Downs Golf Club - the venue for its first.

A number of members had attended the unveiling ceremony of a blue plaque for Henry Cotton in July.

Alleyn Cricket Club

The 1st XI had achieved promotion but, regrettably, the 2 XI had been relegated. The Sunday XI continued to go from strength to strength. There were now some 350 junior members and the Club had been awarded Clubmark status.

The Senior Club would be moving to the Old Alleynians' ground for the forthcoming Summer, whilst the new drainage system was installed at Burbage Road.

Edward Alleyn Tennis Club

EL reported that the Club had gained a number of new members and thanked the School and PB for their help with the problems earlier in the year.

5. a) The Accounts of the Club for the Year ended 31st July 2017

CH reported that the Accounts had been independently reviewed by Richard Foster and included quite a detailed Treasurer's Report.

The Club continued to be grateful to the School for the receipt of the School Leavers' subscriptions, which had come in at an amount greater than that in the previous year due to there being an increased number and the increase in the School fees, on which the payment was based.

Historically, 10% of the Leavers' subscriptions had been paid to the Alleyn Benevolent Fund but this year, as a one-off, the Management Board had increased this sum to 10% plus £5,000. Going forward, the sum paid over would be increased to 20% of Leavers' subscriptions for a period of 5 years.

The 200 Cub had maintained an average of 199 members throughout the year.

The Dinner, which appeared in the Accounts presented, was that at the School in November 2016.

Magazine costs were expected to continue to increase with increases in postal charges, in particular.

Overall, he felt that the year had been as good as it could be financially and the Club was carrying forward £130k of net assets, most of which was in cash.

The Accounts were unanimously Approved - proposed CH, seconded DL.

b) The Accounts of the Alleyn Benevolent Fund (ABF)

Chris Nelson (CN) confirmed that the 10% of Life Subscriptions plus £5,000, referred to, had been received into the ABF's accounts.

Additionally contributions from the Pimms Tent had been received of £1,500 and £1,700 for 2016 and 2017 respectively.

The Fund had, also, benefited from a windfall payment of £14k from a family, who had benefited from the ABF's support, most of which would be added to the General Fund.

There was a move to invest in further Charifund units.

Mick Walker, a parent, but not an A.O.B., would be taking over from CN as Treasurer of the ABF.

The Accounts were unanimously Approved - proposed CN, seconded Mike Jones.

A unanimous vote of thanks was, also, offered to John Knights for auditing the Accounts over the past many years and, from the AGM, to CN for his dedication to the ABF, again over some considerable time.

CH noted that CN would be staying on as a Trustee and that the Trustees would be amending the Trust Deed.

6. Election of the Officers of the Club for the year 2017-18.

- i) The Presidency
 President Nell Butler
 Deputy President Lord Ajay Kakkar
- ii) The Management Board
 Chairman Paul Barber
 Vice-Chairman John Dunley
 Hon. Treasurer Chris Heayberd
 Hon. Secretary David Hankin and
 (jointly) Mike Jones
 Executive Members John Battle (Events Liaison)
 and Sue Lane
- Clubhouse General Manager James Freeman
 Development, Alumni Relations Stephanie MacMillan
 and Hon. Editor Rosalind Archer
 Facilities Management Oli Watkins

Chairman (or representative) of
Alleyn Cricket Club Paul Cohen/Jim Bridgeman
Alleyn Old Boys' F.C. Jason Peck
Edward Alleyn Tennis Club Elizabeth Livingstone
Edward Alleyn Golf Society Dennis Lomas

- iii) Membership Secretary
 The role was presently covered by the Development and Alumni Office of Alleyn's School

Dinner Committee
The President, Paul Barber, Stephanie MacMillan, Rosalind Archer and co-opted members as appropriate

Hon. Archivist Neil French
200 Club Treasurer Chris Heayberd

- iv) Hon. Treasurer of the Alleyn Benevolent Fund.
Mick Walker

It was noted that the Trustees of the Fund were:
Richard Halladay (the Headmaster's Representative), Ginny Bolton and Deborah Geddes (Alleyn's Parents' Association), Neil French, Chris Heayberd, Mike Jones, Dennis Lomas and Mick Walker (new Hon. Treasurer).

- v) Election of Vice-Presidents.
David Hankin proposed (DL seconded) the election of John Battle as a Vice President of the Club, congratulating him on his year as President and, in particular, his work to establish a programme of Club social events, additional to the established calendar, as well as his previous service to the Club as Chairman of the Management Board. John Battle was duly elected a Vice-President.
- vi) The Honorary Reviewer.
Richard Foster (proposed JB; seconded JD).

7. School Business

Andy Skinnard (representing the Headmaster) wished to register, formally, the thanks of the School to CN for all his work over many years as Treasurer of the ABF.

In the past year, the School had received a record number of registrations of prospective pupils.

In the Summer, pupils had achieved a great set of examination results, enabling them to go on to do what they wanted to.

A number of new staff members had joined the School at the beginning of the Advent Term, whilst Clare Morgan had been appointed Deputy Bursar to Stephen Born and had joined the Senior Management Team.

The School was pleased to snap up a new Head of English, Alex Smith, from Brighton College and had, also, appointed a new Head of Food & Nutrition.

The School had been inspected under the new regime of Compliance inspections and had been found "compliant" under all 8 measures (the best result possible).

For this inspection, both pupils and half the parental body had been asked to complete a questionnaire, which had resulted in a 99% approval rating from parents.

Remembrance Day had been commemorated very appropriately and was followed by an enjoyable lunch at the School.

Many sporting events had taken place during the Term, which had come to its last week, and there had been a very good Upper School play. Nonetheless, staff were pleased that this long Term was almost over.

It was hoped to move into the new Lower School building by the end of February 2018, which would allow capacity for 6 forms of entry in the future.

8. **Future Dates:**

It was agreed that:

the AGM would be held at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, 13th November 2018; and the Annual Dinner at the School on Friday, 16th November 2018.

KR suggested that it could be worthwhile thinking about rescheduling the A.G.M. to a time when more members were already around, such as Founder's Day.

PB indicated that this was something the Management Board would consider.

9. **A.O.B.**

Robert Holden, Hon. Assistant Archivist, highlighted the debt of gratitude, which the Club owed to Nicola Waddington, the School Archivist, who was a professional, who worked 2½ days a week, and to Neil French, the Hon. Archivist, who had begun in this post in 2007 and spent 30 to 40 days a year in the Archives and was working his way through Arthur Chandler's boxes.

He also mentioned the Herne Hill Society's project, placing 3 minute memories on film, and the cinema project, with which he was involved.

10. **Announcements and votes of thanks.**

PB thanked John Battle for his efforts during his year as President, especially in developing the programme of new events, which had taken place and proved so successful.

In his turn, JB thanked the Management Board members for their support and professionalism. He also thanked Stephanie MacMillan, Ros Archer, James Freeman, Oli Watkins and the School as a whole for all they did to keep the Club and the Clubhouse and grounds running smoothly.

It had been a great honour to be the Club's President and, in particular, to lay the Club's wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

He assured members that the Management Board did listen to what members said and emphasised that new ideas were always welcome as would be new Board members.

He felt that, now, it was important to look to the future and in particular the celebrations to mark the 400th Anniversary of the School.

JB declared the meeting closed.

David Hankin
Joint Hon. Secretary