

BIRMINGHAM GIRLS' OLD EDWARDIAN CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SATURDAY 17th June 2023.

Minutes

1. Welcome from The Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé (President)

KvM welcomed everyone to the AGM/Reunion, especially those who has travelled as far as Australia, Hong Kong and Ohio.

This event is a special one and is an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on 140 years of our amazing school; 140 years of unrivalled education. The 140th celebrations so far have included the Town Hall event, which centred around our history as shown through a school timetable. Other events planned for later in the year include;

14th September – London Drinks

12th October – OE lecture with Rosalind Miles.

KvM went on to mention the launched the 140th Anniversary Appeal, which aims to fund a seven year Assisted Place for a girl entering in the Thirds in September 2024. To date (with match funding) we have raised nearly £50,000 with another £45,000 still available to be matched to reach our target of £140,000. Every little helps, and together we can make these educational aspirations a reality for more bright girls. She hopes people will consider supporting this very special Assisted Place. KvM thanked those in the room who have already supported this appeal. If anyone is interested, please speak to Laura or Adelaide.

KvM gave an update on school life – the first full normal year in a while, which has been very welcome. Academically, we continue to go from strength to strength and KEHS also continues to be a beacon in the local community. We had our best ever A-level results last summer (ranked 6th nationally for A-Levels and 9th for GCSEs) and we were ranked as *The Sunday Times* top academic school in the West Midlands. However, we are not just about exams here; outside the classroom, girls continue to develop more and more diverse interests. There are over 60 extra-curricular activities for girls to choose from each week, offered by staff or other pupils. Normal trips have resumed with a hockey tour to South Africa during half term, languages trips to France and Spain, a classics trip to Greece (and more planned for the summer holidays). With Mandarin being new to the curriculum, it might be that next year they also have a trip. Duke of Edinburgh remains very strong and cricket has taken off - the U12s had their first hardball match just last week.

Our 'new' Design Centre opened to pupils this year - adjoined to the exiting art block, this building has doubled in size and it now houses state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Our new courses in GCSE Design and Technology and GCSE Computing are proving very popular.

KvM gave an update on the Masterplan. This will determine what we need, what we might want, working in conjunction with KES to seek opportunities and prioritise these options.

KvM read out a couple of mentions for those who couldn't be there but sent their wishes; Graham Lines wished to say hello to anyone who remembered his Latin classes and Bridget Board (née Waller) would like to pass on her best wishes to the class of 1969.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. Summary of activity 2019-2023 (Annette Duffy)

AD read her report aloud: "As we have not met since our last AGM in 2019, I hope you will accept this summary instead of the minutes of the last meeting! The 2019 Reunion was a celebration of the 130th anniversary of the BGOEC. The day was a great success with many Old Eds in attendance as well as former members of staff. Tea with a Teacher in the staff room proved a huge hit (perhaps because the "tea" was actually prosecco!), as did the yoga and swimming sessions and a fascinating talk by Old Edwardian Judith Cobham Lowe who was the first woman to be Master of London's Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths.

In December 2019 Natalie Haynes performed Troy Story – her stand up show at the PAC, which was a really fun evening.

As we know, 2020 threw us all into turmoil and we could not meet socially again until 2022. We are very grateful to the Development Office who, despite some members of staff being furloughed, kept us connected with online events and podcasts and publications such as Connect, KE Spirit and Keynotes.

Significantly for BGOEC, in 2020, our 10th President arrived when Kirsty von Malaise was appointed Principal following Ann Clark's retirement. Sadly, we could not mark either event as we would normally do, but we were able to present Ann with a gift and our very good wishes (socially distanced of course!) and hope she will join us for future events.

In 2022 there was a Golden and Diamond Reunion for the leavers of 1960,1961,1962 and 1970, 1971. 1972. This was combined with the Old Boys from KES which worked well and was enjoyed by all.

The same format was followed in 2023 for the 1963 and 1973 leavers.

2023 marks the 140th anniversary of KEHS and the celebrations began with an evening of music, dance, poetry, and drama at Birmingham Town Hall on 27th March. It was a wonderful event attended by many Old Edwardians.

The celebrations continue with our Reunion (today); the Leavers Party on 27th June; London Drinks on 14th September and the Old Eds Lecture on 12th October with Rosalind Miles as guest speaker.

Despite the pandemic, fund raising continued. Old Edwardians know how crucial the Assisted Place Scheme is and continue with their support of it.

As always, we are very grateful to the Development Office for their hard work in keeping Old Eds connected. They too have had some changes, Laura Salt, Debbie McLeod, Jessica Brindley and Oliver Friend have all joined the office and Adelaide gave birth to her lovely daughter Lottie last year – a future Old Edwardian perhaps.

Finally, a very warm welcome to Kirsty on her first Old Edwardian Reunion day – she has of course attended many events already and we thank her for her support and recognition of Old Edwardians,

particularly in the Town Hall event which referenced many aspects of school life throughout its 140 years.”

4. Matters Arising

Judy Dyke offered her thanks for the amazing Town Hall event.

5. Reports:

Development Office & KEHS Trust Fund (Adelaide Bailey)

See appendix 1. Since being able to host events again we have had around 750 people back in school which is great. Online, there have been interactions with around 5500 people (which is fantastic given we are only in touch with around 3000 Old Edwardians from KEHS).

Thank you for your continued support of APs, particularly during the covid pandemic it was clear that more assistance was needed for more families so it was really important that we could continue that.

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the two dates for your diaries, 14th September for the London drinks and 12th October of the lecture with Rosalind Miles.

Thank you to the BGOEC for the funds that were passed over to us for Assisted Places – they continue to generate an investment income which supports most of the places we offer from The KEHS Trust.

Gabrielle Stanley wanted to know how many pupils those funds were supporting – Adelaide Bailey explained that due to the way these funds were set up historically we now amalgamate the interested earned to put it towards the larger pool of funds which we use to support Assisted Places.

Treasurer (read by Annette Duffy, prepared by Anna Emery)

“Total Assets of the Club at year end (31.12.2022) are £34,239, a decrease of £221 from prior year. This increase can be broken down into:

Decrease in valuation of the Lazard Multicap UK Income Fund investment of £1,033. The total valuation of this investment is now £21,838. See comment below.

(ii) Dividend income from the Lazard Investment of £911 .

(iii) Expenditure of £48 on thank you gifts for the porters for their help with the move of the archives.

(iv) Donation of £50 to Cancer Research UK in memory of Joyce Stevens.

Cash at bank at year end is £12,401 an increase of £812 on prior year.

Lazard Investment: 2022 saw a range of challenging and rapidly evolving factors. Inflation continued to accelerate, which in turn caused most major central banks to tighten their monetary policies. The continuation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine had significant economic and geopolitical knock-on effects. Energy and food supply was disrupted, exacerbating the inflationary backdrop.”

The Loan and Gift Fund (Helen Nixon)

“Report of the BGOEC Loan and Gift Fund for the year to 31 March 2023

The balance on the BGOEC Loan and Gift Fund with Santander at 31 March 2022 was £899.97 plus gross interest of 09p received in April 2022.

In June 2022, requests were received via School for support for two girls who were about to become Old Edwardians, and the Trustees decided that the time had come to close the Fund by making gifts for the benefit of these two girls.

A cheque for £900.27 including closing interest was issued to the KEHS School Account, after some confusion within Santander was clarified.

We have heard through School that both recipients have been very grateful for these gifts, which have made a significant difference to them.

Thank you to all Old Edwardians who have contributed to the Fund in the past, and who have advised the Trustees of potential beneficiaries.”

The London Branch (Angela Clayton-Turner)

“The legacy of Covid plus the celebrations for the 140th anniversary has meant that there has been no London dinner this year.

The number and fitness of Old Eds living in and around Bromley is diminishing due to us all getting older. I attended the funeral of Judy Herzmark online in 2021 and went to Brenda Edward’s funeral last year. Both had been regular attenders of our annual Bromley lunch in the past. However, four of us met for lunch in Bromley in May this year and enjoyed the chat.

Four of us also attended a London lunch in November (a different four). There could have been more people but it proved difficult to find a date which suited all who were interested. Next year I will endeavour to give more notice. An online notification unfortunately excludes those who are not online and also some members are still reducing their activities due to the risk of Covid. The idea of a London lunch is to cater for people who used to come to the dinner but have ceased to travel into London in the evenings.

There has been no London dinner since the pandemic and this year due to the 140th anniversary. However, a London drinks evening is being arranged for September 14th as part of the celebrations. I hope lots of London members will attend and maybe it will prove to be a successful addition to our calendar of events. I’m hoping that next year we will be able to join up with London Old Boys again for a summer outing. The boys organised this successfully for many years and then stopped. We took over and have since arranged successful outings to the newly opened Postal Museum and Bletchley Park (which was oversubscribed!).

Many thanks to the Alumni staff for their support throughout the year.”

6. Election of Officers - the following have expressed their willingness to stand:

Chairman

Mrs Annette Duffy

Treasurer

Mrs Anna Emery

7. Election of the Committee - the following have expressed their willingness to stand:

Mrs Barbara Davis
Mrs Janet Burgess
Mrs Janet Smith

Mrs Gabrielle Stanley
Mrs Irene Bannister
Mrs Cas Britton

Dr Alice Stanley
Mrs Helen Nixon

8. Co-opted Members:

The Development & Alumni Relations Office

All elections were proposed by Angela Clayton-Turner and Seconded by Grace Duffy.

9. Tributes to Molly King and Sylvia Dicker (Annette Duffy)

“Since our last Annual Reunion in 2019, our committee has lost two very special members.

Molly King (née Jarvis) was at school 1947 – 1954 and died in February 2022.

Sylvia Dicker (née Hallam) was at school 1946 -1954 and sadly died just a month ago in May.

They both joined the committee in the early 1980s and were heavily involved in many activities.

Molly’s forte was organising outings which covered a wide variety including Well Dressing at Bakewell, a Candlelit concert at Aston Hall, and bell ringing at the Carillon in Bournville. She was very thorough in her groundwork before the event and always found a great restaurant to finish off the day.

She and her husband Fred also organised an Annual Skittles evening which was a great success and ran for many years. As with her outings, Molly was very thorough and road tested all the local chip shops to see which one provided the best fish and chips, which was an integral part of the skittles evening! (It was the Dolphin Fish Bar in Raddlebarn Road!)

Molly helped enormously with the production of the Annual Report (which then became KEynotes), the PS magazine and also the organising of the archives.

She was a great friend to Barbara Davis, particularly when they both were widowed and during lockdown, they would ring each other to make sure they were completing their daily exercise by walking around the garden. When restrictions were lifted, they met for fish and chips every Sunday evening.

Sylvia had an amazing life living at various times in Zambia and Canada, as well as different parts of the UK in-between - but she was very down-to-earth and dealt with whatever life presented in a matter-of-fact way.

She loved King Edward’s always acknowledging how much she owed to her education here. There are many articles written by Sylvia in the Archives, especially about Miss Kate Flint who was her English teacher, someone she clearly admired.

Her five daughters all attended KEHS so her association with the school was a very long one. She served on the Parents’ Association as well as the BGOEC committee. She felt very strongly that the Girls’ School should have its own identity and not be overshadowed by KES.

Like Molly she was very involved in Club activities and her amazing memory made her a real asset in sorting through the Archives and discovering their historical reference.

She was Chair of the Old Edwardian Club in 1996 when Ena Evans retired and Sarah Evans took over. Sarah told me how very kind and helpful Sylvia was to her at that time.

Her husband Brian, like Fred King, was a great support and came along to many Old Eds events too.

Molly and Sylvia were both wonderful ladies and we will miss them very much.”

10. Any Other Business

Julie Webb (née Turton) OE 1951. Presented a book to the Old Edwardians' Library.

The book is the second of three volumes following the history of the college. It is written in the words of staff, students and Marie Crabbe herself who led the way in changing Physical Training into Physical Education. Marie Crabbe was a pupil at KEHS from 1915 encouraged by the headmistress Miss Major, she trained at the Dartford College and after several teaching and lecturing posts she became the Principal of the Liverpool Physical Training College, which she immediately renamed in honour of its founder Irene Mabel Marsh.

AGM was closed at 11.50am.