

SALOPIAN CLUB AGM 2023

Held at The Cavalry & Guards Club, Piccadilly, Mayfair, London
on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 5:30 pm

Present

Miles Preston (Chairman DB 1963-68), Hugh Ramsbotham (Vice Chairman) Tony Barker (Treasurer DB 1968-73), Holly Fitzgerald (Director), Richard Boys-Stones (SH 1968-73), Richard Hudson (M 1967-72), Charles Stevenson (SH 1997-2002), George McLellan (S 1965-70), Rob Matthews (O 1968-73), Chris Wain (Head of Futures), Chris Williams (R 1978-83), Martin Sandford (SH 1963-68), Tim Lamb (SH 1966-71), Peter Birch (DB 1966-71).

1. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from:

Peter Fanning (Staff 1981- 2012)
Oliver Jackson-Hutt (Director of Development)
Leo Winkley (Headmaster)
Charles Wright (S 1963-68)
John Moore (Staff 1989-2020) Co-Chair Arts Committee)
Henry Southern (G 2003-08 Co-Chair Arts Committee)
Desmond Shawe-Taylor (President)
Ben Duncan (SH 1965-70 President Elect)
Becky Home (MSH 2011-13 Young OS Chair)
Adam Morris (Rb 2007-12)

3. Minutes.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman's report (attached) highlighted a year with a busy social, sporting and arts programme. The most significant change was the handover of Nick Jenkins to Holly Fitzgerald as Director. The Chairman thanked Nick and Holly for a smooth transition. He reported on the sporting clubs' activities, highlighting the

OS Hunt's historic win in the annual Alumni Race and the successes of the OS Fives Club.

There has been growing involvement of Old Salopians in the Futures programme and in OS Connect, which has been rebranded Salopian Connect and opened up to parents. Chris Wain thanked the Club and the Director for their ongoing support.

The Chairman confirmed that work continues to develop links between the Club and alumni of the overseas schools, particularly of the school in Bangkok.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing President Desmond Shawe-Taylor for his year in post, the highlight of which had been the excellent evening at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in June. He also offered sincere thanks to the Director, Christine Stephens, the Executive Committee, the main Committee and all the other volunteers who run the clubs and associations for all their hard work, without which the Salopian Club could not function.

5. Accounts.

The Treasurer presented the accounts for 2022-2023 and noted that expenditure had increased from £95k to £133k owing to the resumption of a full programme of events leaving us with a small surplus of around £6k, which would be in the normal range.

The Treasurer explained that he and the Executive Committee had given considerable thought to how best to use the Capital Reserve on a project or projects that would meet with members' approval. Last year it was decided that £50K would go towards the restoration of the School War Memorial and the Moss Gates. This project is still in the planning stage but should go ahead later this academic year.

A question was asked about why there is a large balance on the current account. The Treasurer explained that this equates to approximately a year's turnover. It was felt to be a prudent level of reserves and was useful for cash flow purposes. The Club's income can be sporadic and it is important to ensure that we can meet our obligations at all times.

Clarification was sought on when the balance of the reserve funds might be spent. Discussion ensued about the possible financial threat to the School following the next General Election and the need for caution in committing funds. Current capital spending is focused on the refurbishment of boarding

houses following the integration of day boys into the boarding houses, which has been a great success. The Chairman confirmed that he and the Executive Committee are always looking for projects on which the reserve funds can best be deployed in compliance with the objects of the Club.

A further question was raised about the grants made to the sports clubs, the amounts involved for individual clubs and how the money is spent. The Treasurer ran through the amounts allocated to the various clubs and confirmed that these could be made available on request.

The accounts had been scrutinised by the Independent Examiner, Geoffrey Davies (DB 1963-68), to whom grateful thanks were due. Approval of the accounts for 2022-23 was proposed by Martin Sandford, seconded by Peter Birch and agreed unanimously.

6. Ratification of Appointments.

The following appointments were ratified to take effect from 1st January 2024:

Independent Examiner.

Geoffrey Davies (DB 1968-73). His reappointment was proposed by Richard Hudson, seconded by Hugh Ramsbotham and agreed unanimously.

Co-opted Members.

Seb Marsh has stood down from the committee at the end of his term.

Adam Morris is a current member of staff as well as an Old Salopian and is hoping to act as a link between School sport and OS sport as well as representing the Young Old Salopians. His appointment was proposed by Chris Wain, seconded by Richard Hudson and agreed unanimously.

Richard Hudson, who continues his excellent work as editor of the Salopian magazine. His appointment was proposed by Peter Birch, seconded by Hugh Ramsbotham and agreed unanimously.

The tenure of Club officers and Co-opted members is for 3 year terms and that of the President and Independent Examiner for one year terms.

7. President

The Chairman introduced Ben Duncan as the President for 2024. Ben was unfortunately unable to attend the AGM. He was an accomplished oarsman,

Captain of Boats and a member of the Cambridge Boat Race Crew in the 1974. His appointment was enthusiastically ratified.

The Chairman also introduced the President for 2025. Tim Lamb was a professional cricketer, who played for Middlesex and Northamptonshire and went on to be the Chief Executive of the England & Wales Cricket Board. Tim was present and warmly welcomed. He accepted the role with the greatest pleasure.

8. AOB.

Four points were raised:

- a. Peter Birch, current Sports Chair, asked about the procedure for electing his successor when his term of office comes to an end at the end of 2024. The Chairman replied that he hoped that Peter might consider staying on with further discussions to take place in due course.
- b. Chris Williams (OS Masonic Lodge Secretary) brought the meeting's attention to a masonic event which will be hosted at the School in the summer of 2025 – the annual Public Schools Festival. Representatives of 37 other schools will be visiting Shrewsbury for the first time in 36 years.
- c. A suggestion was made to have year group gatherings in London. A number of people shared their experience of other schools who host a reunion 5 years after pupils leave. It was agreed that this is worth exploring further.
- d. Hugh Ramsbotham expressed his deep appreciation of all the hard work and adroit leadership provided by the Chairman over the past 5 years.

9. Date of next meeting.

Wednesday, 20th November 2024 at 6.00pm (tbc) at the Cavalry & Guards Club.