



# THE GORDONSTOUN ASSOCIATION

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG, KT

Minutes of the Gordonstoun Association (GA) Annual General Meeting  
Held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009, South Room Gordonstoun House

## Committee Members Present:

Trevor Hames (TAH)	Chairman
James Craig (JWC)	Secretary
Peter Ramsay (PR)	Treasurer
Martin Scriven (MS)	

There were a total of 18 members present including the committee

## Apologies

1. Apologies were received from Duncan Dalzel-Job and Simon Thorp.

## AOB

2. There were no requests for AOB

## Approval of the minutes

3. The minutes from the GA AGM held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were issued to the meeting. There were no requests for amendments and they were approved.

## Chairman's Report

4. In his last meeting as GA Committee (GAC) chairman TAH summarised the highlights of the GA during 2008 – 2009. He noted the success of the golf meetings, organised by Martin Scriven, the OG's rugby match and the Carol Service. The London Diner in March was also well attended. TAH had attended the open day when Ocean Spirit of Moray visited St Catherine's Dock in London. The event had attracted ~200 people. However, the GA has been less successful at organising new events.
5. It has been recognised that without a dedicated staff organising or creating new events it will be difficult to launch new events. With this limitation in mind TAH met with Mark Pyper, Hugh Brown (the school's finance director) and Sophie Kueffer (who is a school governor) at a house in Battersea, south London. After this meeting the school agreed to set up a

dedicated office for the GA which would be manned by the a GA Events Co-ordinator (Ben Goss), GA Co-ordinator (Steve Brown currently senior master and former House Master) And GA Secretary (Yet to be appointed) paid for by the school. The office will be established operational by September 2009. Steve Brown will run the office on behalf of the GA and act as a link pin with the events co-ordinator, Ben Goss. The GA office will have a full time secretary and the school has also employed an archivist to help develop the website.

6. TAH stressed that the GA retains its independence. An agreement has been signed with the school to ensure that the GA's independence is legally robust. The existing GA constitution has also been amended and the Associations of Gordonstoun amalgamated into the GA to form a unified association. The GA is also linked to the Gordonstoun School Council which convenes three times a year. TAH noted that the GA now has a good relationship with the school. TAH had also received a letter from Sir Brian McGrath, who is private secretary to Prince Philip. The Prince has formally acknowledged that he will act as patron of the GA.
7. Following a question from the member TAH presented the revised constitution which had been sent to all 7,000 members of the GA in February 2009 and placed on the GA web site. However, some of the assembled members expressed concern that there had been insufficient time for adequate consultation. The chairman did point out that the GA membership had already been given two months in which to comment. Only one e-mail response had been received which expressed the sentiment that the necessity for the change was a logical step but that they did not agree with it. Later in the meeting the constitution was recommended for approval with 14 votes in favour and no objections.

### **Treasurer's Report**

8. The Treasurer PR circulated a fully audited set of accounts. The draw for the 200 Club annual prize of £1,000 and one of £40 were made but were not allocated because the winning numbers had no names against them. PR also made mention of the fact it is proposed that the GA will support a pupil in some venture and a figure of £1,500 from the 200 club has been set aside for this purpose.
9. In answer to a question about the administration costs in the accounts PR noted that the administration costs were purely the expenses for the GAC.
10. PR also presented a budget for the GA noting that the school will fund the running costs of the GA office under a separate budget.
11. The accounts were approved by the meeting. PR also proposed that the account auditors, Sayers Butterworth LLP, should be retained. They have proved efficient and only charge £600 plus VAT. The streamlining of the accounts has made the task of auditing much easier. TAH thanked the Treasurer for doing an excellent job and noted that the 200 Club is now in profit.

### **Elections**

12. As there were only eight candidates standing (four new and four re-elected) there were no elections as permitted under the constitution. The members of the GAC re-elected are as follows: James Craig, Duncan Dalzel-Job, Martin Scriven and Nicholas Radford. The four new members are: Nigel Rimmer, Andrew Clark, Georgina Middleton (nee Houseman) and John Mulligan.
13. TAH then proposed that PR take over as Chairman of the GA. This will need to be ratified at the first GA meeting and will require a two-thirds majority.

### **General Comments**

14. TAH thanked MS for initiating a series of golfing and social events in the north and north west of England. However, there was a general sentiment that new members of the GA were not getting involved in its activities. There is a propensity for younger OGs to network through Face-Book rather than the GA website. It was generally acknowledged that the GAC needs to organise more events.
15. MS announced two forthcoming golfing events. Angus Morgan is organising a golf match at Brunsfield near Edinburgh on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May; and David Greydone is organising another event on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June at Knutsford in Cheshire.

### **Vote of Thanks to the Chairman**

16. At the conclusion of the meeting PR present TAH with a quaich and hip flask in recognition of his significant contribution to the GA which has been re-energised into a positive association.

James Craig  
GAC Secretary  
2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009