

Minutes of a SOSA Annual General Meeting Held On Saturday 13th June 2009 At Sibford School

The President, Bryony Veysey, welcomed Old Scholars'.

Present: There were 38 members present, including the President.
(Attendance list attached)

Obituaries: In our silence we remembered those Old Scholars' who have died this year, especially Diana Lloyd, a Committee Member whose funeral was on 12th June 2009 where SOSA were strongly represented. Others were Eric Brown, Peter Burgess, Doreen Carmen, Norman Coxon, Ruth (Lizzie) Jones, Ronald Kennedy and Ian Parsons.

Greetings: Were received from Jenny Wilson (nee Lamb), Heinz Tomasich, Rosemary Berrington (nee Coxon), Janet and Joe Sewell, Martin Dodson, Jean Walker, Robert Invararity, Jim Hilling and Elizabeth Bent (nee Gray).

Apologies: Were received from Mike and Wendy Van Blankenstein, Terry Rowntree, Sheila Trout and Tamara Wadsworth (nee Cox).

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting having been previously circulated, were approved by the members and signed by the President.

2. General Secretary's Report

"At our AGM today we hope, through your adoption of a new Sibford Old Scholars' Association Constitution developed with the full support and co-operation of the School, to give SOSA new energy and the possibility of a sustainable future.

Whilst so much has changed over the years our objectives remain the same and I am sure the importance of Sibford to us and the importance of us to Sibford will also be true for todays and tomorrows Sibfordians. Our Association therefore continues to have an opportunity to play an important part in the life of Sibford School and life after Sibford.

Central to what we are proposing is a sharing of responsibility for the future of SOSA with the School and the new Committee structure provides for that opportunity. We are grateful to Michael Goodwin and his team for both enabling and welcoming this new initiative and I am confident we shall see a younger and more vibrant Association emerge in the years to come. We of course have to embrace, facilitate and encourage these fundamental changes. The future of SOSA depends upon our doing so and our new Committee will have to meet that challenge.

I am sure our new Constitution will need further amendment and revision as the new SOSA emerges but we have made a start and I am grateful to Mike Finch in particular, John Taylor, the Committee and others who have made important contributions to our efforts.

I would now like to ask Mike Finch to introduce the new Constitution and propose it be adopted by this AGM.”

At this point Mike Finch introduced the new Constitution and following clarification of a number of issues and concerns members expressed during a short question and answer session, Mike Finch proposed the new SOSA Constitution (as amended) be adopted by the Association. The proposal was seconded by Ian Weatherhead and unanimously approved by Old Scholars'. The new Constitution is attached to these minutes.

Paul Frampton continued “Another major initiative this year has been the development of the new SOSA Website sibfordoldscholars.com which is now up and running with links into the Schools sites. I am sure those of you who have visited the site have both enjoyed it and been impressed by it. It is vitally important that the site is updated and refreshed on a regular basis and I know your new Committee will ensure that this is done. Once again, I am most grateful to Mike Finch and Karen Cooper of KC Graphics for all their hard work.

Our Editorial team of Mike Finch and Ian & Christine Weatherhead have done a great job on the Magazine and the SOSA Newsletter but they do need and depend upon contributions from the entire SOSA membership. Together with our website there is a great deal of news, editorial and other material of interest required – please give thought and your support to these important communication links.

Our Reunion here on School Open Day is also a new initiative for us and I am sure we have all enjoyed and been impressed by the School, the work it is doing and most importantly by the staff and pupils. We thank the School for inviting us to share the day with them and for the use of the facilities for our Reunion. We shall find out what the food is like later!

We shall of course be sponsoring the Geoffrey Long Book Prize, we hope to present a new SOSA trophy one day and all leavers with their SOSA badges at the appropriate time.

I thank and congratulate our President Bryony Veysey on an excellent year in office, the Committee and especially Margaret Shelley and Christine Weatherhead who are retiring this year. Our School Committee representatives Richard Hughes and Lucinda Poulton must also be thanked for their important contributions to the School on behalf of the Association throughout the year.

Russell Steed, our Treasurer has done every job going for the Association and will be handing over this important task to the School's Business Manager, Peter Robinson after finalising our accounts on the 31st July 2009. Russell has kindly agreed to be co-opted to the new Committee for the next year in order to ensure that this process goes well. We are most grateful to you Russell.

Finally, there is a group of Old Scholars' who have kindly acted as Trustees of the land we own at the Elm – we are most grateful to them. They are John Taylor, Martin Dodsworth, Patrick Flynn and Lilian Ward. Pat Flynn and Lilian Ward feel it would be appropriate for them to stand down at this time and your Committee with your approval would like to appoint Mike Finch and a representative from the School to replace them. May I have your approval that this be done.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the day and Meeting for Worship at the Gower tomorrow and thank you for your support today. I am sure we have put SOSA on a better path, one which will enable us all to make the most of our school day friendships and our continuing interest in supporting Sibford School and the important work it is doing.”

Paul Frampton – 13th June 2009

3. Treasurers Report

Russell Steed presented the attached report and the Interim Accounts also attached, for the 10 month period ended 31st May 2009. Russell was warmly thanked for all his work on SOSA's behalf over many years.

4. Election of the New SOSA Committee

The following were elected to represent SOSA on the New Committee to warm acclaim:

President	2009 / 10	-	Richard Hughes
Vice President	2009 / 10	-	Paul Frampton
School Committee Representatives		-	Lucinda Poulton to 31/12/11
		-	Richard Hughes to 31/12/13
Committee Members to 31/07/10		-	Mike Finch
		-	Ian Weatherhead
		-	Edd Frost
Co-Opted Member to 31/07/10		-	Russell Steed

5. Any Other Business

SOSA Badges will be presented to all School Leavers on 3rd July 2009 by our President, Bryony Veysey and Edd Frost.

Margaret Shelley proposed a vote of thanks to our President and the Committee, seconded by John Taylor.

Mike Finch announced to the Members that Bryony Veysey is the one hundredth person to become President.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.45 pm.