



AGM Report and Minutes 2018

11 October 2018

held at
Queen's Gate School

By kind invitation of the Principal
Rosalynd Kamaryc BA MSc PGCE

AROPS
14 Cromwell Road, Alperton, Middlesex HA0 1JS
arops@arops.org.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of AROPS
held at Queen's Gate School,
126 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5LE
on Thursday 11th October 2018

Present: The President, Bill Gillen (Old Arnoldian Association), in the chair, and representatives of:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| KGS Friends | Old Roffensian Society |
| Old Askean Association | Old Russelians Society |
| Old Bristolians Society | Old Waynflètes |
| Old Deconian Society | St Swithun's School OGA |
| Old Felicians Club | The Silcoates Association |
| Old Hamptonian Association | The Old Lancing Club |
| Old Kingstonian Association | The Royal School Society |
| Old Priorians Association | The Wellensian Society |
| Old Roedeanians Association | Westonbirt Association |

Apologies were received from:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Ackworth Old Scholars' Association | Old Royals Association |
| AROPS Independent member x 4 | Old Stortfordian Society |
| Battle Abbey Former Pupils Association | Old Tauntonian Association |
| CASE | Old Tridents |
| Casterton School Old Girls Association | Old Wellingtonian Society |
| Channing Alumnae Association | Old Wrekin Association |
| City Of London OGA | Old Wycliffian Society |
| Kent College OGA | Prior Park Foundation |
| Malvern St James OGA | Radlean Society |
| Merchant Taylors' OGA | St Albans High School OGA |
| Old Wellingburian Club | St Beghian Society |
| Old Aldenhamian Society | St Paul's League |
| Old Blundellian Club | Stamford Schools Old Girls Guild |
| Old Bradfordian Association (London) | Stonyhurst Association |
| Old Breconian Association | The Kingswood Association |
| Old Claysmorian Society | The Marlburian Club |
| Old Coventrians Association | The Old Eagle House Society |
| Old Cranleighans Society | The Old Johnians |
| Old Diocesan Union | The Old Leodiensian Association |
| Old Dauntseians' Association | The Old Ruthinian Association |
| Old Dunstonian Association | The Red Maids Society |
| Old Edwardians' Association | The Royal Hospital School Association |
| Old Etonian Association | The Rugbeian Society |
| Old Framlinghamian | The Sternians Association |
| Old Godolphin Association | The Symondians Association |
| Old Margaretian Association | The Uppingham Association |
| Old Pauline Club | The Westonbirt Association |
| Old Pocklington Association | Wycombe Abbey Seniors |

Welcome and Introduction

The AGM was opened by the President Bill Gillen who thanked the Principal and Bursar for hosting the AGM at the school this was followed by a talk by The Principal of Queen's Gate School, Ros Kamaryc, who presented an update on events during the year including GDPR, Inspections, GCSE and A Level Results and Pupil Trips Abroad at the school which were appreciated by all present.



A short entertainment followed when the School's *Poet in Residence* read her poem celebrating the Anniversary of the Junior School and her fellow student was accompanied by the Director of Music as she sang.

Apologies for absence

These are listed on facing page.

Minutes of the AGM held on 12 October 2017.

There were no Matters Arising and the minutes were passed and signed.

Chairman's Report.

Peter Jakobek (Old Bristolian) then presented his report with a written copy circulated earlier. Highlights were that Regional Network Meetings continue to grow and George Bunting (The Wellensian Association) had agreed to be the AROPS Regional Network Organiser. AROPS is run by volunteers though school development officers are welcome to give their input. Schools and Societies should and do work closely together. Members are encouraged to book their 2019 Annual Conference places as soon as possible. New members on the committee are always welcome. Thanks to Keith Balkham (KGS Friends) for acting as Secretary and Treasurer in the past year.

Members welcomed and accepted the Chairman's Report.

The President (Bill Gillen) reinforced that more members on the committee were required.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the Accounts.

Keith Balkham presented his report with a written copy circulated earlier. The following points were highlighted. On GDPR the updating of contacts, associations and other data was difficult, but people were more aware of needing correct information to be held. There continue to be Standing Order and Subscription issues. Keith explained that the committee expenses were higher this year as it had been agreed that committee members are entitled to travel expenses when representing AROPS at tlocal networking meetings.

The Report was accepted by all.

Election of Honorary Auditors

Elaine Gawn of Kingston Grammar School kindly put herself forward and was duly accepted as Honorary Auditor and thanked for taking on the task.

Report on Local Networking Meetings

Jan Butler who co-ordinated the Local Networking Meetings was not able to be present but sent a report which was accepted by the meeting (attached as appendix a).

Due to family commitments Jan is standing down from the committee and the role of networking co-ordinator. A vote of thanks was expressed by the meeting for her hard work in expanding the range of the meetings over the past few years.

In future the meetings will be co-ordinated by George Bunting.



Election for 2018-2019 Officers

Chairman – Peter Jakobek (Old Bristolians) was duly elected

Secretary – Vijay Khullar (Old Roffensians) was duly elected

Treasurer – Keith Balkham (KGS Friends) was duly elected

Registrar – Andrew Day (Old Kingstonian) was duly elected

Committee – Tracey Ahmet (Rugbeian Association), George Bunting (The Wellensian Association), Tim Cunis (Old Pauline), Anthony Phillips (The Old Lancing Club), QD Seymour-Smith (Old Decanian), David Jenkins (Socius), Jill Dixon (City Of London OGA), Jane Pendry (Independent member) and Caroline Scallon (The Royal School Association) were duly elected.



AOB

There was a brief and wide ranging discussion regarding the Annual Conference in Oxford next year. Peter Jakobek would welcome any ideas of the content of the conference from members.

Other matters discussed at length included the role of Schools, Pupils, Associations, local Communities, Parents and State Schools. Regional Networking Meetings. The promotion of AROPS.

There being no further business the AGM closed at 2000 and Members retired to a delightful supper at Queen's Gate School, many thanks to our President Bill Gillen for organising this and to Queen's Gate for their continued hospitality.

Networking Meetings Report 2017/18

I would like to offer my thanks to Committee members who have helped with the various aspects of setting up the local meetings. A special mention to QD Seymour-Smith for travelling the length and breadth of the country to support the gatherings and supporting in various ways.

Thanks also to other AROPS members – volunteers, as well as School Alumni employees, for their help, advice and encouragement and of course, to all who attended the meetings and freely shared their experience and expertise with us.

Again, feedback has been good, but perhaps we need to consider a proper feedback sheet or questionnaire, to learn how to improve....

Agendas

GDPR was a dominant theme in all of the meetings prior to a certain date in May! We have all been very grateful to those who shared their considerable expertise and knowledge with others who had not attended training sessions or met lawyers themselves. I know that some of us found ourselves, unexpectedly, as the relative experts in our own situation as a result. No doubt time will be spent reviewing how it is going at the next round of meetings, but it reminds me of the Millennium Bug - for those old enough to recall the hype about that! I imagine we are all looking forward to focussing on alumni engagement and its many facets this year.

Timing, Venues and Reports

I have not received complaints about timing, but people simply do not come along if timing is impossible....

‘During the working day’ can rule out some volunteers, but I think the idea of evening or weekend meetings is less favourable, even to retired members.

We have continued to attract members who have not previously attended any AROPS meetings as well as building up support with our regular attendees. We still need to work on ‘spreading the word’ and I believe that a personal invitation to a newcomer is worth a good few mailshots! Generally, 10 – 20 have attended any one meeting. Meetings are still open to non- members, and we hope that these visitors will join AROPS. Please invite any contacts you have who may be interested.

The main challenge continues to be to make the meetings something that people do not want to miss; this can only happen if we have really lively and informative meetings with experts present and all attendees feeling free to take part in

discussions. Then we need people who were not there, get to hear that have they missed out!

This academic year we held meetings in: Manchester; Bootham, York; Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire; The Forest School, Epping; St Paul's Boys; St Benedict's, Ealing; The Royal School, Haslemere; Bristol Grammar School and Millfield.

Some meetings are already in place for the academic year 2018/19: Leeds Grammar School; the Leys Cambridge and The Royal Russell School Croydon this term. We are planning for The Royal School, Haslemere, Bristol, London (2 meetings) and The Midlands in the Spring Term. The Summer Term is not finalised as yet, but we hope there will be a meeting at Eton College.

I have tried to get a balance between returning to schools who are willing to host us and going to new venues. On the one hand, some like to see other schools, but others prefer the knowledge of the location and time to help them plan. We are always delighted to receive offers to host Networking Meetings – and at the moment, particularly for smaller meetings in more remote areas or where we do not have many members. Thanks to all of you who have expressed an interest in hosting a meeting in the past. If you are still willing/able to, please could you contact me by email as soon as possible.

A brief Report of each meeting is available on the AROPS web page and some meetings have fuller reports which you need to request from the Secretary.

As I am stepping down at the AGM, others will be taking on the responsibilities but I am happy to take any queries and pass them on to the appropriate person up until the end of the year when the new arrangements are fully in place and have been publicised.

Jan Butler (Old Coventrians' Association)

2019 NETWORKING MEETINGS

7 March St Benedict's School, London W5
14 March Royal School, Haslemere

Check website www.arops.org.uk for further dates that are currently being arranged

Contact George Bunting - Network co-ordinator for further information or to offer to host a meeting at chairman@oldws.org.uk



2019 Annual AROPS Conference **Saturday 11 May**

Join us on Saturday 11 May for the annual conference to be held at Magdalen College School in the delightful city of Oxford.

Book the date now to join us - why not make a weekend of your stay and enjoy exploring the city on the Sunday before returning home.

Put the date in your diary now and look out for full details and costs for day and conference dinner in mid-February. A good time to meet with members of other alumni associations and share ideas and good practice.

