

QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE (Kensington) BRANCH, K.C.L.A

Minutes of the 85th Branch ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 10 June 2006 in the C2 Lecture Room of the STRAND BUILDING of KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON

The meeting commenced at 16:15.

Present: All those present were invited to record their attendance in the signing in book.

About 40 members supported the re-union event, but only about 20 members attended the AGM.

The following Committee members were present:

Ann Wood	Chair
John Brockhouse	Deputy Chair
Audrey Stubbs	Treasurer
Lyn Embling	Editor Envoy
Pat Cox	
Hilary Phillips	
Jean Atkins	

Apologies: Henry Embling (Membership Secretary), Gary Thomas (Web Master), Helen Huckvale (Minutes Secretary) & Mike Barker.

In the absence of the Minutes Secretary, Lyn Embling & John Brockhouse undertook this role jointly for the current meeting.

Minutes: Copies of the minutes for the AGM 15th October 2005 were circulated. There were no matters arising & the minutes were accepted as a reliable account of the meeting.

Correspondence: The Chair had received information from Kerry Stephenson following up an enquiry concerning the gates of the old QEC building. The original gates have been restored & now hang at the old entrance to the College in Campden Hill Road. New gates (built by the developers with slightly smaller dimensions) have been installed at the new entrance to the Phillimore's site off the Duchess of Bedford Walk.

The Chair had also made enquiries regarding the Portrait of the Queen Mother & had been informed that it was now in store at King's, however, Audrey Green informed the meeting that the Portrait was now hanging in the Senior Common room at King's (Strand).

Chair's report: The Chair stated that there was very little to report since the last AGM (8 months ago). Two Committee meetings had been held & had focussed mainly on tracking finances & preparation for the events for the current weekend.

At the previous AGM, three former QEC students (Professors Nancy Rothwell, Howard Dalton & Keith Gull) had been suggested for nomination for King's College Fellowships. It was decided that Nancy Rothwell probably had the highest profile, & the Chair had duly prepared the relevant citation & other paperwork to put her name forward. Unfortunately, the nomination had not been successful.

The 2006 re-union & AGM were taking place earlier than normal as they had been organised in conjunction with King's College Alumni Office, in order to take advantage of the facilities offered by the Alumni Weekend. However, this had proved to involve an unexpected amount of extra work for the Chair. In addition, the event did not seem to have been very successful in attracting younger members of the association, as had been hoped. In the light of this, the Chair suggested that the QE(K)A re-union/AGM should revert to the autumn. She also noted

that a poll, conducted via the web-site, to ascertain members preferences for a June or autumn meeting had returned a 50:50 response. She therefore proposed that the meeting should be held at the end of September from 2007 onwards. The re-union walk would be continued (subject to interest) in conjunction with the King's Alumni Weekend in June.

Proposed AW; Seconded JB; ACCEPTED

The Committee currently meets every 3 months, but as much of the business is now conducted via e-mail, fewer members have attended the meetings. The Chair proposed that the Committee should meet every 4 months instead of 3, with meetings at the beginning of February & June. The Deputy Chair confirmed that there were no restrictions in the Constitution regarding the frequency of the Committee meetings.

Proposed AW; Seconded JB; ACCEPTED

Treasurer's Report: This was presented to the meeting by the Treasurer, noting that this only covered the period to the current (early) AGM, not the full year. The invoice for the 2004 AGM/re-union had finally been received & paid. As reported last year the event ran at significant loss. No invoice has been received yet for the 2005 re-union.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting – Proposed AW; Seconded JB.

The meeting thanked Audrey Stubbs for her work as Treasurer & Mavis Everitt for carrying out the audit of the accounts.

ENVOY: The 2006 ENVOY was due to be issued around the end of August & members will be informed via e-mail when copies are available for download via the web-site. Hard copies will be sent to those who have forwarded donations towards the production & postage.

Several members had already provided articles/visit reports for ENVOY, & some are still anticipated. Any further items would be very welcome.

It was suggested that a notice should be posted in ENVOY to inform the membership of the decision to revert the reunion/AGM to the autumn.

Committee issues: The change to the number of Committee meetings has been reported above. No Committee members had expressed any wish to resign. Ann Wood asked whether anyone would be interested in taking over as Chair, but there were no volunteers. Ann indicated that she was prepared to continue as Chair for another year, but she would not be able to continue in this role indefinitely.

QECA Bursary: There had been no further communications on this topic since the previous AGM. The Chair indicated that although many of the relevant degrees were being closed, there was still potential to provide a bursary based on some other criterion. Given the lack of response from the members on this issue, the Chair proposed that no further action should be taken. The meeting agreed.

Members who wished to make donations could do this directly to Kings via the Annual Fund. Donors could specify the area in which they wished their gift to be used.

Any Other Business: John Brockhouse read out a report of KCLA matters to the meeting:

“Since the last report was submitted at the October 2005 AGM, there has been only one KCLA Council meeting (22 February) plus an informal meeting of some of the branch representatives to discuss the Consultation Paper circulated by the new chairman, Steven Rhodes.

At the Council meeting the Alumni Office representative reported a number of developments as follows: A new Head of Alumni Relations, Rachel Beer, had been appointed & joined the Alumni Office at the end of February; Rachel Corver's (Alumni Officer, Communications) role is to be expanded; Claire Edwards (Alumni Officer) returned from maternity leave in the Spring but has decided to resign her post as from the end of May to spend more time with her new baby – this is a shame as she has been an extremely helpful contact during her tenure but we wish her well in the future; a Staff & Alumni Common Room, located in the new South Wing of the Strand Building, opened on 16 May & is available for use during business hours (9:30-17:30); a website-based database is under development that will allow personal records to be updated by members.

The KCLA commissioned anthem was performed at the Advent Service in December. The work generated some interest & comment at the reception after the service as it was, in places, challenging for the choir but was generally considered to be a successful piece.

As mentioned above, the Chairman circulated a draft Consultation Paper in February entitled "The position & role of the King's College London Association" together with a copy of an earlier discussion paper produced by Becky Williams (Development Director). The intention was to set out in greater detail what the role & mission of KCLA should be in the light of changes to the College & higher education sector in the last 20 years, the future for King's as set out in the Principal's Green Paper, & the different expectation of the range of alumni & members of KCLA as well as the expectations of loyal King's alumni of long standing.

The paper contained a number of proposals including:

- that KCLA should draw up a development plan in conjunction with the Alumni Office;
- the adoption of amendments to the Constitution to ensure that KCLA Council should be as representative of the Alumni body as possible;
- New posts be created on KCLA Council for former members of staff, 'well wishers', parents of students of the College & non-graduate members of KCLA;
- Assisting the College in its external presentation & in shaping its identity;
- Amending the Constitution to include fundraising as one of KCLA's objectives;
- KCLA members' involvement in Pastoral support;
- KCLA as a worldwide body;
- KCLA & College should work together to produce a group of alumni who are well placed & able to develop as recruiters for the College.

Comments were requested to be sent by 19 May, a final draft will be settled at the Council meeting of 4 October & voted on at the AGM on 26 October."

Gary Thomas had continued to maintain the QE(K)A website.

Votes of thanks were proposed to Lyn Embling & John Brockhouse for taking the minutes in the absence of the Honorary Secretary, & to Ann Wood for organising today's events.

Date of next meeting

AGM: September 29th 2007.

Next Committee meeting: 18th October 2006 (then February 2007).

The meeting closed at 17:11.