

Minutes of the 110th Annual General Meeting of the Marlburian Club held on Saturday 7th October 2006 at 10.30 am in the Ellis Theatre

The President, Nick Maurice, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the AGM. He began by mentioning the sad death of Tommy Garnett, the former Master, at the age of 91. He said that there would be a Thanksgiving Service for Tommy in the Spring and asked all at the AGM to stand for a Minute's Silence. He went on to apologise for the non-appearance of the Magazine which had usually been published before the AGM but which, for various reasons, had been delayed this year. This, of course, meant that the Minutes of the previous AGM and Accounts had not been circulated in advance.

1. To Approve the Minutes of the AGM of 8th October 2005.

The President proposed that the Minutes be approved and this was seconded by Richard Pavitt. They were duly signed as being a correct record.

2. To adopt the Accounts

Quintin apologised for the fact that the accounts had not been previously distributed. He explained that overall income had risen from £ 57,000 to £ 66,000 whilst subscriptions were up 3%. Income from advertisements had risen from £ 4,500 to £ 11,000. On the expenses side magazine production and distributions costs had been somewhat higher - up from £ 29,00 to £ 32,000, which was mainly attributable to the fact that an extra mailing had been required last year because of combining VC/GC Day with Club Day.

The other expense that had increased significantly was the cost of the website and associated interface with the Club's database which had cost some £ 26,000 but the Bursar had kindly agreed to assist with the funding of this and consequently the costs would be spread over 4 years.

Investments had risen from £ 57,000 to £ 76,000 and Net Assets stood at just over £ 100,000. Cash balances were about £ 40,000, or around £ 24,000 after allowing for all liabilities.

Treasurer of the Charitable Funds Report.

James Abell, Treasurer of the Charitable Funds, reported that the Funds' Income in the year ended 31 March 2006 was £144,000 which was mostly investment income. £606,000 had been disbursed this year including a £500,000 grant to the College towards the new Art School. Other grants related to Scholarships and Bursaries, and support for OMs and their dependents who were suffering hardship. Net Assets stood at £4.9m and total investment return for the year was

27.7% compared to the Funds' benchmark of 25.3%. The Charitable Funds' investments were reorganised during the year and were now invested in M&G Charities Fund. This will reduce costs and based on historical returns should not result in any loss of performance.

The President proposed that the Accounts be adopted and this was seconded by Nigel Grieve. This was agreed unanimously.

3. To re-elect the Treasurer – Quintin Heaney.

Quintin Heaney being prepared to stand again was proposed by Nigel Grieve and seconded by Richard Marcon.

The President thanked both James Abell and Quintin Heaney for all their hard work on the Club's behalf.

4. To appoint the Auditors – Hays MacIntyre stand again.

Quintin Heaney proposed that the Auditors be reappointed and this was seconded by James Abell.

5. The President's Report

The President said that it had been a fascinating year and his hesitation in taking on the role was completely unfounded once he had settled into an excellent working relationship with the Secretary, Martin Evans, and, of course, the indefatigable Penny Redman. They are the engine room of the Club, Martin with his extraordinary diplomatic skills, his memory for people and their pasts (some of which we would all rather he forgot) and Penny with her ability to deal with technological advances which our Secretary would be the first to admit are not his forte! He was grateful to them both.

The President reflected on the achievements of the past year. The various social and sporting gatherings are an opportunity for different generations of OMs to get together in an extremely convivial atmosphere. We are particularly grateful to William Wells who organises, with our Secretary, the City dinner. He mentioned that the Master had represented us at an OM dinner in Sydney Australia and the Secretary at OM dinners in New York and Dubai.

The Atlas pub drinks and canapé meetings are a brilliant innovation at which the leavers of 18 months before get together for the first time, either just back from their Gap years or at the end of their first year at University. They are a warm reminder of the role that the College plays in creating great and lasting friendships which we are all aware of and the Club aims to enable those friendships to continue and flourish.

The President had been concerned to look at new ways in which the Alumni of the school could contribute imaginatively to the welfare of the

school and its pupils. The Committee agreed to work with the College and in particular the Careers Department to bring together alumni in different specialities ranging from Music, Design, Business, the Forces, the Charitable sector, the Law and others in designing a Careers Day at which current Marlburians could take advantage of these specialists to help them with choices in their future careers. It was a good day and we are grateful to all those who participated. As it was a new venture there were lessons learnt from both pupils and the specialists and these are being fed back so that we can do better next time.

In this context he was very pleased to be at a meeting with the Master, the Chairman of Council, Sir Hayden Phillips and the Chairman of the Foundation, Robert Jeens, to look more closely at the interface between the alumni and the School. This was the beginning of a longer conversation which will be going on, he hoped, over the next few months.

The President went on to mention the privilege we all had in welcoming and listening to one of our most distinguished, OMs Mark Malloch Brown, the Deputy Secretary General of the UN, to Marlborough in March who delivered the Annual Lent Lecture on behalf of the Marlborough Brandt Group to a packed Memorial Hall. He felt that the direction of several young lives was changed that evening.

Subsequently, he acknowledged the huge amount of work that Holly Scott-Donaldson has put into the development of the new Club website. He hoped that Members would take a moment or two with Holly for her to demonstrate the site as it stood at the moment and this would take place during the Reception in the Marlburian Club.

Last year the theme of Club Day was courage. This year the theme is around music and a celebration of the choral education that Marlborough has provided for so many. Eighty OM choristers would be singing Choral Evensong in Chapel at 5.30 pm which would include the anthem *Spem in Alium* by the 16th Century composer Thomas Tallis. He hoped members would be able to attend.

To finish, he thanked the retiring members of the Committee Annabel Cochrane, Rupert Atkin, Alexandra Jackson and in particular Sir Michael Latham, his predecessor as President, for the immense amount of work he and they have put into the Committee.

He then moved onto the next item on the agenda which was to elect the new President, Air Marshal Ian MacFadyen. He also took the opportunity of congratulating him most warmly on his recent appointment as National President of the Royal British Legion. Ian Macfadyen's nomination was proposed by the President and seconded by Robert Smith and was greeted with acclaim.

6. To Elect the President

The President Elect began by mentioning that in a year that marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the most famous of OMs, Sir John Betjeman., he thought it only right to open with some words from him. He did so from a book Betjeman wrote about islands, describing the Isle of Man, and particularly the view from the top of the highest peak on the Island called Snaefell.

He went on to pay a personal tribute to Dr Nick Maurice, Club President this past year. His first experience of the Club Committee has been under Nick Maurice's leadership. He had set a fast pace, indeed at times one that has been difficult to keep up with, but he had been instrumental and energetic in stirring our minds to see where the Club may best make its mark. He would certainly be a hard act to follow. Nick's final act would be tonight's performance of Spem in Alium.

The President Elect said that he could not stand there without also saying a word about the man who was the Master during his time at the College. Tommy Garnett was a great leader of this school, and a man who wrote highly perceptively in his assessment of him as he left Marlborough. He was not going to quote Garnett's words, but the other entry about him reads: "Physics. Top of the class until half term. Thereafter his performance was catastrophic". He hoped he would be a little more consistent than that during this next year. His theme, as President, was to further the aims of the Club in what he called the three Cs. Club, College and Council.

Club.

This Club is about shared values; it is about an ethos of hard work, enjoyment of life, good manners, and a belief in God. But it is more than that. It was also about comradeship and enjoying each others company. He intended, with his wife Sally, to get around to meet as many OMs as possible.

College.

One of the most important things that had struck him this past year, as he had observed the Club Committee at work, is a growing need for the Alumni and the school to work more closely together. We should start that work now. He wanted, therefore, to build on the excellent work begun by his predecessor. There is also a link here with his third C.

Council.

Sir Hayden Phillips, Chairman of the Council, had just him to a meeting in November in which he wishes to explore two particular avenues:

- a) A more active involvement of OMs in many aspects of life of the College, including such as mentoring and giving advice to Marlburians.
- b) Building on the friendship and common interests developed whilst at Marlborough, in furthering the group links with the College in sport, music, the professions etc.

He was delighted that the imminent launch of the revamped Club website, long awaited, will happen during his year, and paid tribute to Holly Scott-Donaldson for the tremendous work she had already put into the site.

The President elect believed it time for a bit of consolidation. He especially looked forward to working with the Secretary, and he closed by saying how delighted he was to be directly associated with what is acknowledged to be one of Britain's finest schools. He hoped to do his part to further the interests of the Club, and strengthen its links with Marlborough, which had done so much for all those present.

7. Nomination of President Elect

The Nominations Committee had recommended to the full Committee the name of Tony Hill (CO 1949-53). Tony is a distinguished OM Golfer and a leading member of the R&A. He was a former Captain of Burnham & Berrow GC and President of the English Golf Union and is a keen and enthusiastic OM. The President proposed his election, seconded by Anthony Tanner and this was greeted with acclaim by all those present at the AGM.

8. To Elect Three New members to the Committee

Three new Members had been nominated to serve on the Committee, they being:

Andrew Williamson (B1 1958-62)
Proposed by Nick Maurice
Seconded by Susanna Spicer

Robin Azis (CO 1973-78)
Proposed by Rupert Atkin
Seconded by Mike Dana

Katie Naylor (CO 1974-76)
Proposed by Alexandra Jackson
Seconded by Neil Hinds

The President stated that the new Members represented a diversity of age and experience that was most welcome. Members present gave their unanimous approval.

9. The Master's Report

The President then invited the Master to give his Report.

The Master welcomed everyone back to the school and went on to reflect on what an enjoyable occasion last year's Club Day had been when the Plaque to OM VC/GC holders was unveiled. He felt that this occasion had been enriched by the presence of Eric Wilson VC, whose words had echoed the sentiments felt by many.

He apologised for the state of the Chapel, which is undergoing major restoration, but it was rumoured that the Art Dept felt that the shroud of scaffolding and screens actually improved the building!

The school was in great heart with a general improvement in results whilst 'A' Level results were the second best in the history of the College. The allocation of University places was agreeable and the Master particularly mentioned Robert Peal who had been in the top 5 pupils in the country in 2 disciplines.

Sport also had had the best year in the College's history – they had even managed to defeat the weather too and plaudits had been handed out not only for achievement but for the standard of behaviour by our teams. The Dunford brothers had swum in Shanghai and the Commonwealth Games whilst a Soccer team had played in Sweden and achieved the best results ever for an English school and the College had come second in the Ashburton Cup for shooting. Members present were warmly invited to visit the pitches in the afternoon to view the many games that would be taking place.

The new Art School, which had been opened by Charles Saumarez Smith (OM), Director of the National Gallery, was a wonderfully light and inspiring building and the old subterranean building had been converted into new Common Room facilities. It was unfortunate that the Chapel was in a state of some disarray but it was hoped that the installation of the new organ would be completed early in the New Year.

The Master highlighted that it had become necessary to review the entrance system and that Colin Fraser, Senior Admissions Tutor, was overhauling our procedures. Lists for girls were closed until 2015, which was obviously nonsensical whilst there were 420 boy applicants for 110 places. Whilst connections with the College were important it was vital that new entrance tests should look at all-round character not just an elite and that due regard should be paid to the ethos and spirit of the school. He mentioned the splendid Memorial Evening that pupils had staged in memory of Tom ap Rhyce Pryce who was sadly murdered earlier in the year and stressed that there was a huge desire amongst the student body to serve – a desire heightened by the Mark

Malloch Brown lecture, previously mentioned, which had left the College buzzing with his message.

The College was pushing ahead with a new Shell curriculum and hopefully the adoption of an International Qualification in the future. It was the Master's intention to push ahead in support of an Academy in Swindon serving some of the most deprived schools there and also to build an international network of schools where pupils and staff could both teach and study abroad on a reciprocal basis.

Tribute was paid to Martin Evans, the Club Secretary, for all his support and acknowledgement was made of his tireless efforts on behalf of the Club and his assiduous promotion of the College. The Master had attended various functions throughout the year visiting both glamorous and more local functions. The work of the Foundation was also acknowledged with appreciation for their contribution to the success of the College and to the efforts they were currently making in order to support various bursaries for those who cannot afford the fees.

Thanks were extended to Mitch and Ann Patching and Richard Jones Parry, Housemaster/mistress of Elmhurst and Summerfield and to Paul Orchard Lisle who had recently stepped down as Chairman of Council. Sir Hayden Phillips had been appointed to succeed Paul Orchard Lisle whilst Edward Gould, previous Master, had been appointed Chair of the Independent Schools Council.

He mentioned that the recent Court case concerning the pupil who had been expelled had been concluded with a satisfactory outcome which was a huge relief not only to Marlborough but to all those in the Independent sector. However, it was rather worrying that the school's Charitable status was again under threat.

Mention was made of the Memorial Service to Jake Seamer and the Master said how sorry he was by Tommy Garnett's death, as they had both known each other so well in Australia, where they had both had Marlborough and Geelong GS in common.

The Master concluded by recommending to Members the Choral Evensong during which there would be a performance of Thomas Tallis' Spem in Alium.

The President thanked the Master for his excellent Report and for his continuing support of the Marlburian Club. He said what a pleasure it had been to work closely with the Master and wished the School and the Master all good wishes for the future. There being no further business the Meeting was declared closed at 11.30 am.

Martin Evans
Club Secretary

12 October 2006