

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Edward Alleyn Club**

Held at 8.00p.m. on Tuesday 14th November, 2023

in the Pavilion Meeting Room, Alleyn's School, with a link via Zoom.

**In attendance:** Sue Lane (President), Paul Barber (Chairman), Chris Heayberd (Hon. Treasurer), David Hankin and Mike Jones (Joint Hon.Secretaries), Johnny Battle, Saif Beejay, Neil French, Frank Keenan (Director of Development and Alumni Engagement), John Gibbons, Robert Holden, Timothy Inge, Liz Livingstone, Lisa Pavlovsky and Nick Wahla.

1. Apologies for Absence had been received from Reno Antomiades, John Battle, Jim Bridgeman, Ray Cousins, Colin Diggory, John Dunley, Jane Lunnon, and Oli Watkins.
2. The **Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting**, held on 8th November 2022, were presented by the Chairman, agreed by the Meeting and signed by the President.
3. There were no **Matters Arising**, which would not be covered elsewhere in the Agenda.
4. The **Annual Report of the Management Board** was presented by the Chairman:

(i) PB was looking forward to the Annual Dinner, this year being held in the Atrium of the Edward Alleyn Building at the School.

(ii) The Clubhouse at Burbage Road had benefited from an extensive redecoration over the previous winter. Work had also been undertaken on the balcony and replacement of the stop-netting was also due to take place, whilst the relaid tennis courts had, now, finally been painted, too.

The Groundsman, Steve Twyman, was working well and the Management Board had agreed that the Club would make a contribution to the School for a bore hole, which would alleviate the long term problem of getting sufficient water onto the grounds in the summer months.

(iii) For some time, The Burbage Theatre Company, now no longer operational, had been the only "non-sporting" section of the Club, so PB was very pleased that the Management Board was talking about incorporating the Randonneurs walking group as a Section, as well as getting a Netball Section off the ground.

John Gibbons explained that the Randonneurs had become established over a few years and now had a list of potential participants, principally in the age range of mid 50's-80. They would particularly like to open up to other alumni, especially those in

younger age groups and there would be a full calendar of walks, some shorter, some longer, for the next year, as well as some plans to go a little further afield. NW observed that Croydon Ramblers structured walks so that there were opportunities to cut the route short.

There were no AOG's amongst the group so far but some wives joined in with the walks. JG was hoping to link up with the School's Duke of Edinburgh Awards team and to meet up with them on an expedition on Exmoor.

PB added that walking was a very scaleable activity and might also operate on a regional basis.

(iv) In brief, the Tennis Section had had an excellent Summer, Football had not long ago kicked off the new season and the Cricket Club had recorded a very successful season.

(v) The Management Board was keen to encourage a social focus as distinct from a sporting one and would look at developing a small Social Sub-Committee, comprising Board and new members to liaise with the Alumni Office.

(vi) The Club was financially stable and maintained a strong relationship with the School as a key part of the Always Alleyn's initiative.

(vi) There was now an agreed text for a revision of the School's GDPR Notice, so that, for the first time in over 5 years, the Club Officers would be able to share the alumni database and use it to pass on Club information.

PB thanked the School's Chief Operating Officer, Guy Collins Down, for his assistance in bringing this about.

The report was discussed in some detail and approved by the meeting. (Proposed PB, Seconded MJ)

### **5.1 Accounts of the club for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023.**

CH presented the Club's Report and Accounts for the Year ended 31st July 2023, which had been signed off by the independent examiner, John Griffiths, AOB.

The numbers were very similar to those for the previous year with the main income stream coming from the School in respect to the costs of the Magazine, which represented the Club's main expense and would continue to increase in line with the costs of production and postage. For this reason, it would help if more members were to agree to receive the Magazine electronically.

The 200 Club remained more or less fully subscribed. Other income was derived from investments, where as previously, a risk averse stance was adopted.

TPI asked whether Winners of the 200 Club monthly draws were being published. FK agreed to make sure that these were shown on the EAC area of the School's new web-site.

DH asked the interest rate on the Club's deposits. CH replied that, with the rise in rates, United Trust Bank was now paying 4.25%

In response to JG, CH responded that it was not unusual for the Club to record a deficit on the Dinner, especially at a venue away from the School, and that, on this occasion, the Alumni Office had kindly contributed £1,125 reducing the loss to the Club to £1,125.

The accounts were approved unanimously (Proposed CH, Seconded TI).

## **5.2 Accounts of the Alleyn Benevolent Fund (ABF)**

CH reported that these accounts were reviewed by Jason Peck AOB and, although not presented here, were in the public domain.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Fund was Mike Walker and in addition to himself, 3 Trustees, NF, MJ and LP were present at this meeting.

The Fund's main purpose was to provide support to Y12 and Y13 pupils, whose parents own resources had become insufficient for their children to hold down a Sixth Form place. There were, currently, two bursaries (one third of fees), the Incledon and Fenner, and the Trustees would like to fund a third in the name of Colin Niven.

NF noted that financial circumstances were difficult and wondered whether the main Club might provide additional income to the ABF. CH replied that this could certainly be looked at but that both School and Club were already supporting the ABF, so this would be a case of providing more funding.

PB suggested that this should be a future Agenda item for the Management Board on a needs basis and with a view to the 2024-25 year. CH noted that income was principally derived from the Charifund units held by the ABF, donations and the School, which had, historically, been channelled through the Club via the Life Subscriptions.

JG asked how donations were raised and whether the ABF had direct contact with members. CH replied that the Club had not wanted to compete with the School's own bursary fund-raising but that discussions were taking place with FK to see how this might be coordinated. FK acknowledged that, historically, the ABF had been very respectful in not competing with the School's fund-raising but observed that the ABF's aims were rather simpler than those of the School and that, where he was speaking to a particular AOBG donor he would direct them towards the ABF, if that appeared to provide what they were looking for. DH asked whether the ABF might, now, look to raise funds through the Magazine. CH replied that it would, provided that this did not tread on FK's toes.

JB asked whether the bursaries were paid out of income. CH replied that this was always the intention but pointed out that a 1/3 bursary was now £7/8k. The shortfall was

generally made up by the surplus on The Founder's Day Pimms Tent and the collection at the Annual Dinner.

FK commented that a fund of £250k would be needed to fund a full bursary.

The report on the ABF Accounts was approved. (Proposed CH, seconded DH)

## **6 Election of Officers of the Club for the year 2022-23.**

The following were proposed by SL, seconded by TI and duly elected to the offices shown.

### **(i) The Presidency**

President	Reno Antoniadis
Deputy President	Aisha Bywaters

### **(ii) The Management Board**

Chairman	Paul Barber
Vice Chairman	John Dunley
Hon. Treasurer	Chris Heayberd
Hon. Secretaries	David Hankin and Mike Jones
Executive Members	John Battle (Events Liaison Officer), Saif Beejay and Lisa Pavlovsky
Clubhouse General Manager Development, Alumni Relations and Hon. Editor	James Freeman
Facilities Management	Frank Keenan Oli Watkins

### **Chair (or representative of):**

Alley Cricket Club	Jim Bridgeman
Alley Old Boys' FC	Johnny Battle
Edward Alley Tennis Club	Liz Livingstone
Edward Alley Golf Society	David Slaney
The Randonneurs (Walking)	Jon Gibbons
Netball	Sue Lane (pro tem)

## **7. Election of people to Other Roles for the year 2022-23.**

The following were proposed by SL, seconded by JB and duly elected to the offices shown.

### **(i) Membership Secretary**

This role is covered by the Development and Alumni Office at the School.

Dinner Committee	The President, Lisa Pavlovsky, Saif Beejay and David Hankin.
Hon. Archivist	Neil French
200 Club Treasurer	Chris Heayberd

- (ii) Hon. Treasurer of the Alleyn Benevolent Fund: Mick Walker – proposed SL, seconded LP, Approved.

It was noted that the Fund's Trustees were:

Mark Grogan (the Head's representative), Pippa Hawkesford (nominated by the APA), Neil French, Chris Heayberd (Chair), Mike Jones (Hon. Secretary), Dennis Lomas and Mick Walker (Hon. Treasurer).

- (iii) Hon. Reviewer: John Griffiths, proposed SL seconded JG, Approved.

- (iv) Sports Sub-Committee

This Committee would continue to meet at least quarterly to discuss practical matters, including projects and /or expenditure required at the Burbage Road site.

Representatives were:

The Vice-Chairman, John Dunley

The Chair of the Football section

The Chair of the Cricket Section

The Chair of the Tennis Section

The Chair of the Golf Section

The School representatives were:

The Chief Financial Officer or their representative

The Director of Estates

The Head of Commercial Lettings

The Clubhouse Manager

PB considered that the Sports Sub-Committee had come into its own in the past year. He thanked all involved but, particularly, OW, who matched up School personnel with the Club's representatives and JD, who chaired these meetings.

- (v) Election of Vice-Presidents.

DH proposed SL, who as well as throwing herself into events, had made any number of thoughtful, sensible and helpful interventions at Board meetings, as a Vice-President of the Club. The appointment was Approved by Acclamation.

## 8. School Business

- (i) FK reported that the Head had spoken to a number of Board members about progress at the School and had developed a good relationship with the Club. The Alleyn's 10-year Plan had been presented publicly on the previous evening, having been discussed earlier with executive members of the EAC Management Board.
- (ii) Alleyn's continued to provide an outstanding education as evidenced by finishing 8th in The Times League Table. Particular areas of excellence were its co-curricular and digital offerings and it continued to produce enquiring students. A curriculum review had been undertaken and there was a focus on personalised pastoral care.
- (iii) Alleyn's was a profitable operation but there were headwinds arising out of a possible change of Government in the next year. Alleyn's did not generate a significant surplus and 70% of its costs related to staffing, which meant that the

introduction of VAT on School fees would be an issue, as VAT could only be reclaimed on 30% of costs.

JB asked how headcount might be impacted by the anticipated imposition of VAT on school fees in the event of a Labour Government taking power. FK replied that, whilst the School might be able to claim back c.£1m on purchases on which VAT was charged, the most encouraging indication was in the highest ever level of applications at both 11+ and 16+.

He did not want to play down the risks and the challenge would be to find a middle way.

Means of diversifying revenues were, also, under review, specifically into the international independent schools sector.

- (iv) The Power of place was an important factor for Alleyn's. The site was a lovely one but there were areas, in which it was dated. Going forward, the primary projects would relate to rebuilding on the Dining Hall site, improving 6th Form provision and focusing on technology and innovation. It was hoped to develop on 4 levels, including a basement and to incorporate full access for those with disabilities and spaces for positive learning. A full sustainability study was underway.
- (v) In terms of clarity of purpose, whilst Alleyn's was proud of its independent status it, also, wanted to maintain a positive impact and presence in the community.
- (vi) RH asked about environment-friendly lighting at the School. FK responded that most lights were time or motion controlled but was conscious of the question of solar panels. Whilst this had been addressed fully in the Junior School, it would cost c.£4m to roll out across the whole estate.
- (vii) In future, Lady Housemasters (and males, too?) would be titled Head of House.

## 9. Dates for 2023

- (i) AGM: Tuesday November 12th 2024
- (ii) Annual Dinner: Friday 22nd November 2024

## 10. Any Other (Qualifying) Business

- (i) NF reminded the meeting of the need for an improvement in the location of the School Archives to provide more much-needed space. The previous year's President, Peter Yetzes, had wanted to visit the Archives but, to his knowledge, at least, that had not taken place.  
FK assured NF that progress was being made on finding a new home for the Archives. NF, however, pointed out that there were serious issues with the present location in terms of working efficiently and from a safety perspective, as too many items and too much paperwork was currently stored in boxes and, indeed, the corridor, which was a fire escape, was, now, also being used for storage.  
FK replied that a potential site for the relocation of the Archives had been identified, adding that the School Archivist, Nicola Waddington (NWN), should raise the Health and Safety issues with the School's SMT.

PB offered to meet with NF to take a tour of the Archives, if this might help matters.

FK reiterated that the School was well aware of the need to relocate the Archives but stressed that if there were safety issues now, this was a matter for the School to address.

RH added that the Archives were not very secure and that there was no "strong room" for the real treasures in the collection. He, too, felt that there was an overpowering case for relocation.

- (ii) RH also mentioned James (Jimmy) Maple (bn, 1942-50) who was the Club's Senior VicePresident and had been President in 1980.
- (iii) RH was also writing a report on the "Rose Theatre Campaign" for the Shakespeare Birthday Trust.

#### **11. Announcements and votes of thanks**

- (i) PB thanked SL for her considerable efforts during her year as President.
- (ii) Robert Holden kindly thanked the Board for their work during the year.

#### **12. SL declared the meeting closed at 9.30p.m.**

David Hankin  
Joint Hon. Secretary