

Hutchesons' Grammar School Association

Report from the Hutchesons' Grammar School Association Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 24TH September.

The evening, which was well supported with 70 parents in attendance, opened with Dr Greig and Catherine Gillen giving an excellent presentation on the plans for the new athletics track and all weather pitches at Beaton Road, followed by a very interesting report from Jim McDougall and Karin Brookes on the newly launched intranet.

The formal part of the evening then commenced with Mr Kyle, the Association's Chairman, welcoming all the parents and reminding them that it is the intention of the Association to provide a forum for members to discuss general school issues and to provide the opportunity for an exchange of views and information between parents and staff. The Association has also traditionally helped to coordinate activities with other bodies involved in supporting the school and whilst fund raising is not a core activity, it has over the years raised money to buy various items for the school.

This year's committee met on five occasions since the AGM last October and a wide variety of topics were covered during these meetings, including security in and around the school, catering, school uniform and road safety to name a few. Mr Kyle said that for those interested in finding out more, the Minutes of all the Meetings were posted on the website, which he reminded everyone was www.hutchesons.org.

Perhaps the biggest single contribution the Association makes to school life is the annual Careers Convention held in March, for pupils in fourth year, and thanks to the outstanding efforts of Catherine Paton and her sub-committee and recently promoted deputy rector Joyce Beattie, this year's event was an overwhelming success with, for the first time, every pupil in the year participating.

On the social side, a very successful Ceilidh was held in conjunction with the 57 Group in March, thanks to the sterling efforts of Donna Corrigan and her sub-committee and Lesley Russell, and the funds raised from that were used to buy the school sheets of fairy lights to decorate the corridor outside the hall for school dances and other such functions.

Regarding the Associations accounts, the opening balance at the start of the financial year on 1st August 2007 was £2166.41. With the money raised during the year together with bank interest, less donations to the school for the lights and more Highland Dress for the Pipe Band, the closing balance on 31st July 2008 was £1985.00.

Mr Kyle said that the Association depended on the enthusiasm and support of all its committee members and he acknowledged all their efforts during the past year. He paid particular tribute to retiring members, namely Donna Corrigan, Catherine Paton, Julie Whitelaw, David Barnes and Sue

Fraser, to whom he sent the Association's best wishes for a speedy recovery from her recent illness, and thanked them for all their contributions during their term of office.

Thereafter, following nominations and in the absence of any contested positions the following new members were elected:

Primary 1 - Alistair Carson

Primary 3 - Yvonne Walsh

Primary 5 - Fiona Godsman

Primary 7 - Wendy Crawford

Senior 4 - Helen Smith

Mr Kyle reminded those present that the names of the full committee would be posted on the website and that the first meeting of the new committee would take place on Monday 17th November at 7.30pm in the Founders' Room, Beaton Road.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded with Mr Kyle thanking the prefects who had welcomed guests, the splendid musicians who had entertained everyone, the janitorial and catering teams, Gillian Tooth for her assistance, Michelle McMonagle and Iain Keter who had helped with the organization of the evening, Dr Greig, Catherine Gillen, Jim McDougall and Karin Brookes for their excellent presentations and all the parents for their attendance and support.