

Hutchesons' Grammar School Association

Report from the Hutchesons' Grammar School Association Annual General Meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 6th October 2010.

The evening opened with an excellent short musical programme presented by the Senior Saxophone Quartet, comprising Caitlin Jeffrey, Alastair Anderson, Douglas Oates and Michael Clapham. This was followed by a talk from Alec Dunlop, who has recently retired as Head of the English Department to concentrate on his work with the school archives, on the history of the school buildings over the centuries. Dr Greig and Mrs Haughney then gave a report on developments in the Senior and Junior schools respectively.

The formal part of the evening then commenced with John Kyle, the Association's Chairman, welcoming all the parents who had supported the meeting. He reported that the committee had met on five occasions since the AGM the previous October, with a wide variety of topics being discussed, including developments with OSCR, road safety and parking around both Beaton Road and Kingarth Street, input to the design of the new PE kit and catering at Auldhouse and Beaton Road after rugby and hockey. Mr Kyle reminded everyone that the Minutes of all the meetings were posted within the Association's area on the website at www.hutchesons.org.

The most important project in which the Association participates is the annual Careers Convention for fourth year pupils held in March, and Mr Kyle confirmed that this year's event had been very successful once again, with 96% of the pupils involved saying that it had been very helpful. He went on to say that there was a huge amount of work involved in organising the event and thanked Catherine Paton, Jane Thomson and all the other members of the committee who had given so willingly of their time to ensure that it went well.

Regarding the Association's accounts, it was noted that the opening balance at the start of the financial year on 1st August 2009 was £2598.37. Bank interest of £2.97 and funds raised during the year of £620.00 gave a total income of £622.97. The committee took the view during the year that there was no point in the Association holding large cash reserves and it was agreed that £1000.00 would be donated to nominated projects in both the Primary and Secondary schools. This enabled Kingarth Street to purchase Bee-bot computers for the infant department and new microphones for the stage, whilst Beaton Road purchased a scoreboard for the new all weather hockey pitch and protective mats for the running track. All of this resulted in a net figure at the year end on 31st July 2010 of £1221.34.

Mr Kyle then proceeded to thank all the members of the committee for their support and sterling efforts on behalf of the Association during the past year. He paid particular tribute to retiring members, Yvonne Welsh, Wendy Crawford and Marion Leslie for their excellent contribution during their terms of office.

There then followed the election of committee members for the current year. There were uncontested nominations for the vacancies in Primary 5 and Primary 7 and Secondary Year 6 of Audrey Mathers, Fiona Godsman and Helen Smith respectively. Following voting for the vacancies in Primary 1 and Secondary Year 2, Anita Simmers and Lynda MacBride were duly elected.

The full list of representatives for the session 2010/11 is therefore:-

P1 Anita Simmers

P2 Claire Macaulay

P3 Susie Rodgers

P4 Elaine Lonergan

P5 Audrey Mathers

P6 Cherie Rodney

P7 Fiona Godsman

S1 Alina Zahoor

S2 Lynda MacBride

S3 Lindesay MacFarlane

S4 Fiona McCrae

S5 Sheila Galbraith

S6 Helen Smith

Mr Kyle then confirmed that the first meeting of the new committee would take place on Monday 22nd November in the Founders' Room, Beaton Road at 7.30pm.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed amendment to Section 7.4 of the Association's Constitution which states that "a quorum for a General Meeting shall be 50 members" to read "a quorum for a General Meeting shall be 30 members", but with insufficient members to vote this item was postponed to be raised at a future AGM.

There then followed some general questions from parents on various issues, such as sports other than rugby being available for younger pupils, the possibility of introducing cookery classes for more pupils and the provision of lockers for pupils in Secondary Years 1 and 2 to avoid them having to carry round heavy school-bags all day.

There being no further business, Mr Kyle said that it was his final duty to hand over the Chair of the Association to Lindesay MacFarlane, and he wished her every success in her new role.

Mrs MacFarlane then concluded the evening by thanking the outgoing chairman for all the work he had undertaken on the Association's behalf over the past four years, and by giving a general vote of thanks to everyone who had contributed to the success of the evening.