



Minutes of St Ambrose Parents' Association 64th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018 at 7pm.

Present:

Mr Driscoll, Sam Alford, Elaine Cannon, David Godsmark, Joanne McEntee, Stella Corran, Neil Priestner, Mary Ireland, Andrea Mottram, Lynda Nempotakis, Belinda Fleming-Graham, Andrea Kelly.

1 Notice convening the meeting

Joanne McEntee welcomed everyone and convened the 64th AGM of SAPA.

2 Welcome by Headmaster

In the absence of Mr Keulemans, Sam Alford welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked all the officers and members of SAPA for their continued support for the schools. She acknowledged the enormous contribution SAPA has made in the last year and since its formation.

3 Apologies for absences

Mr Keulemans, Anna Warwood, Nathalie Lawrence

4 Minutes of 63rd Annual General Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

5 Matters arising

None

6 Chairman's address

Thank you everyone for attending the 64th Annual General Meeting of Saint Ambrose Parents' Association. I would like to start by looking back over the last year, which has been very successful as Dave will explain in his treasurer's report.

We started the year with a brand-new event – the Scalextric Race Night – with the aim of getting more dads involved. And it worked! The event took a lot of preparation during the summer holidays from a very dedicated but small team of mums. It was a sell-out event, attended by lots of dads as hoped, and feedback from those who attended indicates that everyone had a lot of fun and would come back if we held the event again. For me, I realised what a talented and creative group of mums we have in SAPA, so I would like to thank Belinda, Lynda, Nathalie and Stella, for giving up some of their summer holiday last year to plan the event.

The Christmas Fair was an incredible success, which brought in a massive profit of nearly £6000. This event requires the efforts of a lot of people – we are so lucky that

we have a large group of dads and mums who help run this event every year, bringing their knowledge and experience to make it a success. I would like to thank all of them. I would also like to make a special thanks to all the teachers and school staff who help us with this event...because there are so many of them. Mr Groves who gave up a lot of his time to help us plan the event and make sure it ran smoothly, Mr Cook who was our Santa, all the other teachers who helped with stalls, the sound system and advertising, and Annette Glynn from Top Table who has organised the tasty food for our Fair for so many years. I'd also like to mention the staff in the offices of both the College and Prep, the kitchen staff and caretakers, who all give up so much of their time to help with the Fair. Thank you so much to all of them.

As usual, we held our Fashion Show in February. This event has been organised by Elaine, our secretary, for many years and is always a success. This year was no different and still brought in a very good profit. I think we all agree that it's time to try something different next year, but I know that our fashion shows will be missed. Thank you so much to Elaine for all her efforts organising these and making it look so easy (when it's not).

Throughout the year, our uniform sales have helped a lot of parents and made an incredible profit of over £1,500. And finally, we look forward to our Summer Party that will happen this Friday. There has been a great response to this event, with all 200 tickets sold, and we hope it's going to be enjoyed by everyone there. We decided to try something different this year, moving away from the summer balls that we held in previous years. I would like to thank Will Bonning and Annette Glynn for running last year's successful event – and I hope we can match their success with this year's party.

Now I would like to thank some more people who have supported SAPA this year. I would like to thank Mr Driscoll, Headmaster of the Preparatory School, and Mr Keulemans and Mr Groves, Principal and Deputy Principal, respectively, of the College, for their continued support of SAPA. From the College office, I'd also like to say a big thank you to Donna, Heidi, Julie, Clare, Lynne, and Sharron for all the help they give me, and their super efficiency, Karen in the kitchen who has agreed to help with the next Christmas Fair, and caretakers Tom and Jamie who are always there to help us at any time we need. Many thanks also to Pauline and Katherine at the Prep School who give so much of their time to help SAPA. I'd also like to thank all the volunteers who repeatedly give up their time to plan SAPA events at our monthly meetings and turn up to make SAPA events so successful. SAPA could not function without any of them.

Finally, I want to say how wonderful my fellow committee members are and thank them so much for their wisdom, advice and commitment to SAPA. They are always there for me, and as a new Chair this year, with little knowledge of how a PTA should run, I could not have managed without them. Dave – a reliable and knowledgeable treasurer; and Elaine – a wise and efficient secretary. Both unfortunately leave us this year, and they will both be a tough act to follow. Nathalie – who has been in charge of our social media this year (Facebook and Twitter) has been crucial to the success of our events; Andrea and Mary – never missing a SAPA event, always there to help, making a great success of our uniform sales at the new starter rugby camps; Neil – our new treasurer, bringing his thoroughness and experience to carry on Dave's great work; Will – who has managed the SAPA website, often at very short notice having to make changes to advertise our events, and providing guidance when needed. I would also like to thank Sam Alford. Will described her last year as the backbone and general Wikipedia of SAPA. That is still true today. Sam has been my ever-present guide, there for me whenever I need to know how things should work or who to ask.

Looking forward to next year, we are planning a second Scalextric Race Night in October. The race company and catering van are already booked, so we can concentrate on looking at ways to maximise fundraising on the night. Planning is already underway for the Christmas Fair with new catering arrangements agreed with Karen in the College kitchen, and hopefully the help of a new College mum and dad to produce some fun games for the house stalls. We have decided to introduce a new event next year in place of the Fashion Show, and we have decisions to make about our summer event. As always, nothing happens without volunteers so it's very important that we get more dads and mums involved in planning and running events. A team of SAPA parents will be attending the new parent meet and greets at the College and Prep, and we hope that we can be successful in encouraging more parents to get involved.

I have really enjoyed being involved with SAPA and as I hoped, it has made me feel more of a part of my son's school. I can see for myself what a lovely and academically successful school it is. It has also allowed me to make lots of new friends. I am very proud of how SAPA's fundraising has allowed the College and Prep to buy new equipment this year that will benefit all our boys. It has been an honour to be Chair of SAPA this year and I am looking forward to being your Chair for one more year, before I step down to concentrate on helping my son with his GCSEs. Thank you all, again, for coming tonight. I hope you enjoy the Summer Party, have a great summer holiday and I wish all of us in SAPA, the Prep and the College another very good year.

7 Treasurers report

David Godsmark discussed the accounts for the year. The account, as of June 2018, shows a total amount of £8361.48. The Christmas fair was a great success as always (£6k) and the Fashion show brought in just over £700. Scalextric race night brought in a profit of £260 and this will certainly increase next time. The uniform sales have been extremely successful culminating in a very healthy income of £1600. Many thanks to Joanne McEntee and other SAPA parents for their work. A special mention to Tony Webster for kindly hosting the SAPA website over the past number of years.

8 Election of officers and members:

Neil Priestner was proposed as Treasurer by Joanne McEntee and seconded by Stella Corran. Stella Corran and Andrea Mottram were proposed as Secretaries (job-share) by Joanne McEntee and Mary Ireland. Mary Ireland will continue as a Committee member.

Joanne McEntee will continue as Chair for one more year and Nathalie Lawrence will continue as Social Media and Communications Officer. The post of Deputy Chair remains vacant and it was suggested we advertise the post to new parents coming into the College and Prep.

9. Dates of future fundraising events

Saturday 13 October 2018	Scalextric Race Night
Sunday 25 November 2018	Christmas Fair
February 2019	Quiz Night
May/June 2019	Summer Party

Next meeting June 2019