



Minutes of St Ambrose Parents Association 65th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 10th June 2019 at 7 pm.

Present – Joanne McEntee, Neil Priestner, Andrea Mottram, Mary Ireland, Stella Corran, Frank Driscoll, Patrick Groves, Amy Drogan, Vicky Walker, Lynda Nempotakis, Anna Warwood, John Cutting.

1 Notice convening the meeting

Joanne McEntee welcomed everyone and convened the 65th AGM of SAPA.

2 Welcome by Headmaster

In the absence of Mr Rainey, Mr Groves welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked all the officers and members of SAPA for their continued support for both the College and Preparatory School.

3 Apologies for absences

Cathy McBride, Nathalie Lawrence, Brett Winter-Roach, Sheila Sheerin.

4 Minutes of 64th Annual General Meeting

Agreed as accurate.

5 Matters Arising

None.

6 Chairperson's address

Thank you everyone for attending the 65th 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 Neil will explain in his treasurer's report.

We started the year with lots of new parents attending the first meeting in September, all with a great willingness to get involved. Although we haven't seen so many recently, there are still lots of new mums, dads and grandparents who regularly attend meetings and help with events. Special thanks go to Vicky and Nicola Walker, new year-7 parents, who made some wonderful games that we have used at the Christmas Fair and plan to use at the Summer Party too.

Our first event this year was the Scalextric Race Night. The previous year had been a sell-out event, attended by lots of dads as hoped, and feedback from those who attended indicated that everyone had a lot of fun and would come back if we held the event again.

Unfortunately to our surprise, this proved not to be the case and we struggled to break even as attendance was much down on the previous year, especially by Prep boys. Despite that, the event did make a small profit, all down to the creative efforts of the talented and creative group of parents we have in SAPA. We had games, sweets and pamper sessions and these were very well received.

The Christmas Fair was an incredible success yet again, making even more than the previous year. 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... and also one particular mum. Julie Bastin is another year-7 mum who got involved this year. She put so much time and energy into creating a brand new, magical grotto for Santa – it was really beautiful. I would like to also mention Mr Beegan, our Santa, all the other teachers who helped with stalls, the sound system and advertising, and Karen and Rachel from the College catering staff who organised and prepared the tasty food. I'd also like to mention the staff in the offices of both the College

and Prep, cleaners and caretakers, who all give up so much of their time to help with the Fair and SAPA generally. Thank you so much to all of them.

In the spring, we held a new event, a Quiz Night, to replace the Fashion Shows which had seen falls in attendance in recent years. We all realised this might be a difficult sell, as quiz nights may not appeal to everyone. We had just over 64 people attending, with three teams of teachers. And we made just over £500. And most importantly, the Quiz Night was a huge amount of fun with the top two teams separated by only one point! Thank you so much to all the parents, friends and teachers who came to battle it out, or help run the event. Special thanks need to go to Mr Driscoll for allowing us to hold the event at the Prep – it was the perfect venue. I would also like to thank Paul McBride, our Quiz Master. He was brilliant, the questions were tough but had us all laughing, and he ran the event seamlessly.

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 disappointing response to this event, with 93 out of 280 tickets sold and little response to our repeated calls for raffle prizes. Still we hope it's going to be enjoyed by everyone there and we hope to make a good profit from ticket sales and fundraising on the night.

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 Rainey (Principal), Mr Groves, (Deputy Principal) and Mr Cutting 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, Julie, Maria, Clare, Lynne, and Sharron for all the help they give me, and their super efficiency, Karen in the kitchen, and caretakers Tom and Jamie who are always there to help us at any time we need. Many thanks also to Pauline at the Prep School who gives so much of her 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.

I would like to say how much I appreciate the work of Jon Langston, our webmaster. He has looked after the website for the last school year, adding to it and improving it, every week

using it to advertise the work of SAPA and our events...all unseen by everyone else. And he is happy to carry on for another year. Thank you Jon.

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, always offering to give up their time, and I could not have managed without them. Mary – full of sensible advice and there to help at every event, making a great success of our uniform sales at the first new starter sports camp (with Cathy's help), Andrea – who fulfilled the role of secretary for the first six months of the school year, Nathalie – who has been in charge of our social media for the last two years (Facebook and Twitter) which has been crucial to the success of our events, and also Belinda and Lynda. I would like to say a big thank you to Stella, the SAPA Secretary. She has made sure minutes and agenda are always available, even without having a printer and in the midst of a house move! Also finally thank you so much to Neil, the SAPA Treasurer, bringing his thoroughness and experience to the role.

Looking forward to next year, things are a little uncertain. No one has come to me expressing their willingness to be the new Chair of SAPA, and we also have no Deputy Chair. This is very sad. SAPA has supported the College and Prep for over 70 years, and this should continue. But how to attract new parents to become more involved is a conundrum that we are struggling to solve. And even how to get the wider Saint Ambrose community to support our events. Maybe some of the current committee members and other SAPA parents and grandparents could attend the new parent meet and greets at the College and Prep, and encourage more parents to get involved. Maybe even find that new Chair. However, we'll talk more about the future after we've completed elections to the committee.

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. It has given me skills and experiences I never sought when I first joined SAPA in 2015 but I now greatly value. I never thought I could act as a leader, preferring to act in a supporting role. But you never know what you can do until you try. I am very proud of how SAPA's fundraising has allowed the College and Prep to buy new equipment that will benefit all our boys. I hope today we may hear about how the money we have raised could be spent by the schools. It has been

an honour to be Chair of SAPA for these last two years, and as Deputy Chair for the year before that. Thank you all, again, for coming tonight. I hope you enjoy the Summer Party, have a great summer holiday and I wish SAPA, the Prep and the College a strong and successful future.

7 Treasurer's Report

Neil Priestner discussed the accounts for the year. As of 30th June 2019, the accounts were showing a healthy distributable total of £21,421.58. Neil also highlighted the main areas of income from the Christmas Fair which were the raffle and food sales. Mr Cutting actively promoted the raffle within the College and Andrea Mottram organised it. Neil reported that the uniform sales had increased significantly this year from £1600 last year to £2200 and confirmed that second hand uniform is in big demand.

Mr Driscoll informed the committee that he would like to spend some money during the summer holidays to refurbish the playground for the infants and juniors. Mr Groves confirmed that the College would be using the money to upgrade existing computers and purchase new ones.

8 Election of officers and members

Unfortunately, no one volunteered to take over the role of Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. Neil Priestner offered to continue as Treasurer, Stella Corran offered to continue as Secretary. Although Nathalie Lawrence was absent from the AGM she confirmed that she would continue as Communications Officer. Joanne McEntee proposed and Mr Groves seconded the committee officers.

Vicky Walker, Lynda Nempotakis, Anna Warwood and Mary Ireland all agreed to continue as committee members. Andrea Mottram requested that she stand down as a committee member for the foreseeable future but offered her support at events.

It was agreed that the vacant Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson posts would be advertised on Parent Mail.

9 Future Fundraising Events

Thursday 31 October 2019	Halloween Disco (at the Prep)
Sunday 24 November 2019	Christmas Fair (at the College)
Thursday 6 February 2020	Quiz Night (at the Prep)
May/June 2019	Summer Party/Ball

Next Meeting September 7th 2019