

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of THE PAST OVERSEERS' SOCIETY OF ST. MARGARET AND ST. JOHN WESTMINSTER

**held in the United Westminster Almshouses, Rochester Row, London, SW1
on Wednesday 2nd March 2005 at 4.15 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Mr. Geoffrey King, Chairman
Mr. Peter Darvall
Mr. Alan Bradley, Senior Custodian
Mr. Jack Dribbell
Ms Rachel Whittaker
Mr. Brian Chappell
Mr. Andrew Stevens
Miss Joanna Smith
Mr. David Powell
Lady Joan Reid
Mr. Andrew Ashenden
Cllr. Frances Blois
Mr. Alan Kinsey
Mr. Peter Handley
John Stephenson, Joint Honorary Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dr. Cyril Nemeth, Rear Admiral Ken Snow, Mr. Rodney Brooke, Mr. Raymond Layard, Cllr. Robert Davis, Sir Bob Reid, Lord Weatherill, Lady Normington, Mr. John Scott, Cllr. Ronnie-Raymond Cox, Miss Rosalind Savill, Mr. Alex Segal, Cllr. Jan Pendergast, Sir Michael Neubert, Major General David Burden, Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville, Mr. Ray Usher, Mr. Richard Nemeth, Cllr. Alexander Nicoll, Mr. John Wright, Mr. David Aspinwall, Mr. David Pearl, Mr. Henry Webber, Mr. Richard Grossman and Mr. Derek Fullarton. All apologies were presented and accepted.
2. **The Minutes** of the 2004 Annual General Meeting held on 3rd March 2004 were duly approved.
3. **Matters Arising:** Item 12 – it was agreed that further searches would be made in respect of the reputed loan of one of the large silver pieces to the United States in the 1930s, and AK advised that the Goldsmith company would be the most appropriate place to look. Although not strictly a matter arising, AA raised the issue of the insurance of the silver, and GK explained the position in respect of its insurance through Westminster City Council. The Chairman went on to say that he felt that public access/viewing for the silver was inadequate, and he wondered whether it might be possible to have an exhibition of the silver at the Goldsmiths' Hall in the "other City", possibly at an event where both Lord Mayors attended. DP said that when his Church lent its silver to the Goldsmiths' Hall Exhibition, the Goldsmiths paid the insurance cost, and AK agreed to make further

investigations of insurance costs for such events. Other display suggestions included the Wallis collection, of which Rosalind Savill, a member of the Society, was the curator. One big issue relating to insurance would of course be the value to be insured, which could only be the replacement cost rather than the true asset value of the historical pieces.

4. **Financial Statement for the 2004 Dinner:** The statement was tabled. It was agreed that it was an enjoyable occasion, perhaps a little quashed, and marred only by a poor sound system. JS commented on the accounts, especially Note 3, relating to transport costs. He also wondered whether at future dinners there should not be a fixed quantity of wine (say half a bottle) per head included in the dinner price, with further wine being purchased on a cash basis. Several members of the Committee were, however, concerned that no one should leave thirsty. The statement was approved.
5. **Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2004:** JS tabled the accounts, and advised that Henry Webber would be asked to sign them and add a note as to his examination of them. It was agreed that for the 2005 accounts, the subscription and Silver Fund would be amalgamated in the "income" section, the division between them being now a matter for the Committee to determine, and therefore having no accounting significance. The accounts were approved.
6. **Arrangements for 2005:** The Annual Dinner would be held at the Arts Club on 15th November. Other possible venues for the future were discussed, including perhaps Church House, where the larger room might be sufficient, holding 140, although the smaller room would be inadequate, holding only 80.
7. **Additional Silver Piece:** In respect of the additional silver piece required to cover the years 2006-2012 inclusive, the Chairman and PD had asked Peter Elson, a silversmith who has worked for Lincoln Cathedral, for ideas/drawings as to an appropriate piece, with a view to his being commissioned to make it. AK suggested a possible competitive silversmith, by name Dennis Smith. It was agreed that he would also be approached. The likely cost of the new silver piece was between £2,000-£3,000.
8. **Constitutional Update:** The Chairman advised that a revised draft of the new Memorandum and Articles of Association had been received by Charles Russell, and that the constitutional review would be progressed so that the new constitution could be formally approved at an EGM to follow immediately after the AGM in 2006. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the purpose of the constitutional review was to preserve the ultimate home of the silver.
9. **Membership:** It was announced that the Society now had 100 members, although a number of members had not paid their 2004 subscriptions, and this was going to be followed up by the Chairman.
10. There being no other business, the meeting closed at approximately 5.15 p.m.