

THE PATE'S SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Pate's Society held via a Zoom call on 26th September 2020 at 12 noon

1. **Welcome by Chairman**

Simon welcomed the committee and members James Bunting and Tom Travis to the Annual General Meeting. He explained that due to the current Covid-19 restrictions the committee took the decision to hold the AGM via a Zoom call. Members were contacted by email and the documents were put on the School website.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Cara Battle
Rosemary Dent
Neil Gayler
Alex Gregory
Mary Jones
Flora Selwyn

3. **Minutes of the AGM held on 28th September 2019**

No comments were received and the Minutes were accepted.

4. **Matters Arising**

None

5. **Reports**

Chairman

Simon said that it had been a very strange year for us all. World events have meant our plans and activities for the year have been severely affected as have the lives of so many people.

We had been looking forward to hearing Peter Gill speak at the Annual Lunch today. I know that many of you would have enjoyed hearing from him and so there is an article about Peter in the 2020 Patesian which should be with you soon.

We have all had to be creative and flexible in the way that we lead our lives, and the use of the internet has increased considerably. I would urge you to check out the 'Pate's Grammar School Alumni' Facebook page; Maggie Cowie and Rob Rimell have done an incredible job of putting out regular features about the history of the School over the years. There have been some wonderful stories and photographs which are well worth looking at.

We have also introduced a termly e-newsletter which I hope you are enjoying. The aim is to keep members up to date with School developments on a more regular basis. Cara Battle is the driving force behind this, and I thank her for all her work on this.

We had a successful Annual Lunch last September with an update on the School given by the Headmaster and the opportunity to tour the Sixth Form Block. The Society again attended the School Careers Evening in November and I would like to thank all those who gave up their time to help. Once more a work experience placement was arranged and hopefully the student found that useful

Simon then asked Tom and James if they had anything to add. Tom said that the posts on the Alumni Facebook page were very interesting and James congratulated Rob on the stained glass window video which was part of the Heritage Open Days.

Treasurer

Richard said that the Accounts to 31st March 2020 had been audited and were on the School website. No comments were received.

He said that the Society made £1000 donation to the School for the YR13 Leavers Day which is held in May but unfortunately the School went into lockdown in March so the donation will roll over to 2021. He also mentioned that PayPal is now up and running for any overseas alumni who would like to join the Society.

Membership Secretary

Anne presented the following table:

	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Life Members		478	477	456	396
Percentage		80%	74%	70%	65%
Annual Members		115	169	199	213*
Percentage		20%	26%	30%	35%
New Members		44	54	33	16
Total Membership	565	593	646	655	609

* to date 31 Life Members have converted to Annual Members (2 have paid £100 for 10 year annual membership) and 70 are students that have left Pate's since July 2014 paying £5 a year

Anne said that the number and percentage of Life members is decreasing year on year. This is partly due to the age of these members; to some converting from Life to Annual membership, for which we are very grateful, and also to the Spring letter that we posted to all members that we do not have an email address for as some were returned as moved away/deceased.

The number of new members is down this year but this appears to be directly linked to Covid-19 as we were unable to hold events or attend school events, such as the reunions and the leavers morning, which usually result in new members.

The combined loss of Life members and the reduction of new members also means that the total membership number is down by 7% on last year.

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2020/2021

Simon said that the current committee are part-way through their terms of office and are happy to continue for another year apart from Jen Cockett and Cara Battle who have each served their first four-year term. They would both like to remain on the committee and were proposed and seconded by Anne Daly and Richard Neale.

The positions for 2020/2021 are unchanged:

Chair	Simon Cook
Secretary	Maggie Cowie
Treasurer	Richard Neale
Membership Secretary	Anne Daly
Media Coordinator	Jen Cockett
Events Secretary	Cara Battle
Archives Rep	Maggie Cowie and Rob Rimell
Members	Colin Chandler

The following position is still vacant and there were no volunteers:
Vice-Chair

School Representative Alex Gregory

7. Any Other Business

Jen confirmed that the School has cancelled the Careers evening scheduled for November.

8. Date of next AGM

The next AGM will take place on 25th September 2021.
Simon closed the meeting at 12:26pm.