



DOUAI SOCIETY

Minutes of 144th Annual General Meeting (V2)

held on Friday 2nd June 2017

at Naval & Military Club St James's Square

Present: C Maunder, J Wills, JD Kerr, Fr Oliver Holt OSB, Fr Abbot, P Powell, R Sims, CJW Vale, CA Cundy, DGVF de Freitas, GO Linnett, J Hoshimi, R Campbell, N Woolett, A Davis, R Quarterman, B Funston, P Sweeney, C Gilsenan, S Hughes, C Lima, M Gundry, G Leeming, J Kight, D Smallwood, CJ Peach, T Haigh, T Albert & D Albert

1. **Opening Prayers:** Fr Abbot led prayers. Prayers were said for the souls of the following Old Dowegians whose deaths were communicated to the Society in the past year: Leopold Antelme, Hugh Berry, Christopher Booth, Paul Cotton, Keith Samengo-Turner and any others who have died unknown to us
2. **Apologies for Absence** were recorded from: KJT Murphy-O'Connor & C Peach
3. **Minutes of 143rd AGM- Matters arising:** The minutes for this meeting were deferred to be considered by Council at a future date on the proposal of Fr Oliver Holt OSB and seconded by DGVF de Freitas. No matters arising
4. **Hon President's Report:** As we have had an unusually low number of applications for bursary funding, members were reminded of the existence of the bursary fund. The Society continues in good health. Thanks were offered to Fr Abbot and Fr Oliver for their continuing support of the Douai Society. The January Lunch and this lunch were reasonably well attended. The AGM was being combined with the June Lunch so that the Annual Mass and Rededication of the Pavilion, which had now been completed, could happen without undue strain on the agenda, which included a cricket match against Worth. Hon President reported that progress on rebuilding the Pavilion was very evident and invited all to go and see for themselves. Richard Morris will give a tour starting at 2.30pm, but there were a limited number of hard hats. It was anticipated that a formal opening of the Douai Room, Mass and a cricket match between Douai and Downside would be held on the Feast of St Benedict on Sunday 9th July 2017, and possibly holding the AGM on that day too. Any momentos to be considered for inclusion in the Douai Room were to be given to either Chris Vale or Richard Sims. Todge Morton runs the Society's website and any momentos that could be published on the website would also be welcomed. We were 86% towards accomplishing our target of £100,000. One thousand personal letters had been sent including the cricket captains. A bikathon had been undertaken to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Douai Room.

- 5 Hon Treasurer's Report:** As this year's AGM is being held much sooner than anticipated, due to the Re-dedication of the Douai Pavilion, we have not received the accounts, and we will now have to pay for the preparation of accounts each year. This year, the cost will be £600. As at 25th May 2017 the Nat West current account and Business Reserve account had £19,043 & £52 respectively. As at 23rd May 2017, the Killik valuations for the General Fund and Bursary Fund were £105,497 (cash £2,028) & £96,047 (cash £9,620) respectively. Hon Treasurer observed that markets had been very kind. Unsurprisingly, most of the items of recent expenditure related to the Douai Pavilion Re-dedication. This included £43,000 paid to DPRA. There being no questions, the accounts were adopted on the proposal of Fr Oliver Holt OSB, seconded by C Maunder
- 6 Election of Officers:** The following Officers were elected, both were proposed by Godfrey Linnett and seconded by R Sims: D de Freitas as Hon Secretary, C Vale as Hon Treasurer
- 7 Election of Councillors:** MM McCabe & R Quarterman were elected as Councillors on the proposal of Fr Oliver Holt OSB and seconded by R Campbell
- 8 Election of Chaplain:** Fr Boniface Moran OSB, being willing to continue, was re-elected as Chaplain on the proposal of DGVF de Freitas and seconded by Fr Abbot
- 9 Hon Sports Secretary's Report:** There being no Rugby or Cricket activities, there was no report to make. Hon Golf Secretary reported that the Winners for the Spring & Autumn cups were P Maclellan & J Kerr.
- 10 Park and pavilion update:** The rededication of the Pavilion was scheduled to be conducted by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, followed by Mass, then lunch on Sunday 9th July 2017. Coincidentally, the Abbey Church was rededicated on 9th July 1992. In the afternoon of 9th July, there would be a cricket match and the total number of attendees were expected to be a little above 200. J Wills commended R Sims for achieving the digitalisation of the Douai Magazine. The Appeal has gone well and it was anticipated that there would be in the region of 200 Key Benefactors. An anonymous Old Dowegian had agreed to match funding and it was hoped that this would greatly assist the funds raised on 9th July by way of auction etc
- 11 Any Other Business:** There the proposal put by Fr Oliver Holt regarding the minutes of the 143rd AGM covered in item 3 above. Fr Oliver reported that the Douai Magazine was in boxes waiting to be distributed and will be posted soon. Fr Abbot gave an advert for Tim Albert's book 'Mostly we had it good' published in mid-July involving the transition from the 1960's to late 60's; price unknown. invitations were made to assist the Douai Magazine committee and an enquiry was made for any Old Dowegians who could write an obituary for Leopold Antelme and Hugh Berry