

108th Annual General Meeting

23rd September 2023

THA Secretary's Report

We continue to seek a diverse and representative membership of the Committee. Raman Singh (2010) was welcomed by co-option. Guy Brannan (1974) and Dr Brian Healy (1998) have attended a Meeting as observers. All scheduled Committee Meetings have been held, with one now routinely planned to be online. Business has included communications with Alumni, the student body and the College, and improved information sharing within the Committee. We endeavour to respond to feedback from the very helpful Alumni Survey. The criteria for THA's Voluntary Awards, which are a major element of our engagement with the student body, have been broadened and become more flexible in several respects. The uptake of Awards this year has been encouraging. Ongoing financial and litigation issues continue to be considered carefully by the Committee and handled appropriately.

In a year free from the restrictions of Covid-19 we have held two highly successful Regional Dinners. In November 2022 we were in the War Gallery of the splendid Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. Tristan Langlois (1986), Head of Education at the Armouries, gave an excellent talk which preceded a first-class reception and dinner that was well attended by a wide range of matriculation years of Alumni and their guests. We were delighted to welcome our new Master, Mary Hockaday (1981), who spoke about the College's outward looking development plans and took the opportunity to exchange greetings personally with those present. The Master also fully supported the Regional Dinner in February at the Merchants' Hall in Clifton, Bristol. Seven decades of matriculation years were represented who with their guests came mainly from the Bristol region to enjoy the company, a first-class meal and wonderful service in the fine reception rooms. As the Committee plans to diversify events and formats, they welcome suggestions from Alumni.

I am retiring as Secretary at this AGM after four years in post. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to serve the Association, working closely with two Presidents and the Committee. The constant support of the staff of the Alumni and Development Office and the Bursar's Office is likewise warmly acknowledged. It is a pleasure to observe ongoing and flourishing links with the College, Master, Fellows, student body and staff.

Dr David Billett (1968)