

ROSABEAM 2004



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Rosabeam 2004

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REEDHAM OLD SCHOLARS' ASSOCIATION

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CONTENTS

ITEM	PAGE No
ROSABEAM 2004	1
CONTENTS	3
LETTER FROM THE ROSA PRESIDENT	4
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT	5
GENERAL SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S REPORTS	7
WEBSITE REPORT	8
ROSA MERCHANDISING REPORT	9
REEDHAM MUSEUM REPORT	10
ROSA HISTORIAN'S REPORT	11
THE REEDHAM TRUST REPORT	12
ROSA REUNION 2004	13
ROSA LOTTO	14
MINUTES OF THE 2004 AGM	15
ROSA'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	25
USE OF THE LODGE - THE TRUST'S RESPONSE	26
USE OF THE LODGE - MEMBERS' FEEDBACK	27
SWIMATHON REPORT	28
THE REEDHAM PRIZE	29
ROSABEAM - BLAST FROM THE PAST – 50 YEARS AGO	30
ROSABEAM - BLAST FROM THE PAST – 25 YEARS AGO	31
REPORTS ON ROSA EVENTS	32
CAN WE HELP? YES WE DID!!!	35
FORTHCOMING ROSA EVENTS	36
FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS	37
ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS	38
CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS OF MEMBERS	43
DECEASED MEMBERS	58
ROSA DIRECTORIES AND OTHER INFORMATION	60

LETTER FROM THE ROSA PRESIDENT



I consider it to be a very great privilege to be invited and thereafter to be elected President of the Reedham Old Scholars' Association. I thank all concerned for this honour. I realise that my predecessor, Tony Miller, has held the Office of President, Chairman or Secretary of the Association for a long time and I take this opportunity of reiterating my appreciation and thanks to him for his long service to ROSA, previously expressed by me at this year's AGM.

Some people may consider it inappropriate for the President to undertake the role on a non-executive basis but so long as there is a competent Chairman and an effective Committee, I shall satisfy myself with encouraging and appreciating the on-going work of the Chairman and the Committee. In the short period that I have been in

post, I have been tremendously impressed with the enthusiasm, the new ideas and achievements of our Committee. It is extremely encouraging to see new fund-raising projects such as the Lotto in operation and generating more income. I noted in a Rosabeam from a few years' back that there had been a '*cri de coeur*' for more Committee members. I am very pleased to say that following my recent experience with the Association's current activities, there is no shortage of Committee input under the leadership of George Kanetti, our Chairman. I have pleasure in proffering my warmest thanks for all that George and the Committee members have done and achieved in the last year.

Lots of complimentary statements have been made on the benefit that has been attained by ROSA over the years from the exploitation of the Internet and I.T. generally. We are very fortunate indeed to have two experts in these spheres, namely, George and our Deputy Chairman, David Cox and I thank them both sincerely, not only for all their hard work and time but also their very valuable knowledge and experience. Being able to provide a highly informative and attractive web-site to communicate effectively with our members both at home and overseas has been of very considerable benefit, not only in raising our membership and circle of Old Scholars but also producing additional income. The present situation is that our membership has increased and further revenue has been generated for the Reedham Trust despite the fact the number of old Reedham scholars declines due to age; all of which is a fitting reflection on the excellent performance of our Executive Committee.

It was interesting to see democracy at work within ROSA at the AGM where an open and frank debate took place regarding the proposed Constitution amendments. Following this debate a free vote saw a clear decision to accept our elected Committee's proposed amendments.

Members will be aware that ROSA had been able to hold its Committee meetings at The Lodge ever since Reedham closed in 1979. This was by arrangement with The Reedham Trust. Sadly, The Trust Board advised us last year that for administrative reasons the Board could not allow this happy arrangement to continue. It seems that, as none of the present ROSA Committee is also a member of the Trust Board, certain matters of security and insurance now arise.

The Trust's action was taken without discussion and virtually without notice, leaving little time to find an alternative meeting room. Thankfully, in the meantime, Denise and George have very kindly made their house available for the monthly ROSA Meetings and I am sure all ROSA members appreciate this further generous support and facilitation from our Chairman and his wife.

Subsequent requests for a meeting with the Trust Board resulted in a statement that the Board did not feel there would be any benefit in inviting representatives of the ROSA Committee to a meeting, as there would be no advantage to be derived from discussing this issue further.

As the only one remaining original Reedham building still on the site (other than the swimming baths!), The Lodge was particularly appropriate as a venue for ROSA Committee meetings. I am anxious that a way may be found to secure the restoration of this connection, particularly as ROSA does all it can to raise money for the Trust to help the children we both support. However as my two written requests for an informal meeting with the Trust Chairman, Tony Miller, have been rebuffed, I cannot confidently predict that a satisfactory solution will be achieved in the immediate future.

I look forward to meeting up with many more old scholars in the coming year, meanwhile it gives me and my wife, Christine, great pleasure in sending Christmas greetings to all members and friends throughout the World, as well as our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

Brian H Hord CBE FRICS

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome to this year's bumper edition of Rosabeam. We hope it maintains last year's high standard, which so many of you were moved to contact us and praise. Thoughts very much appreciated by the editorial team.

In this, the 160th year since Reedham was established, I was particularly saddened, whilst compiling the 'flashback' to 1979 (on page 31) and reading again all about the imminent closure and demolition of our School. At that time I had lost contact with ROSA and was totally oblivious to the trauma that was about to befall our School. The first I knew of these events was some considerable time later when my youngest brother, Nicky, told me about a friend of his who had a house in Caterham where he had converted the two ground floor rooms into a through-lounge and had used one of the oak beams from the Reedham site to support the upper floors. That revelation left me quite distraught, it was as if I had lost a close friend, but was never able to say 'goodbye'. My brother later moved into this particular friend's house, and so it could be said that part of Reedham was actually still supporting him many years after it was demolished.

The past year has been a busy one for ROSA with some significant changes taking place as well.

Firstly, after nearly 30 years as ROSA's President Tony Miller chose to retire this year. I would like to express on behalf of the Membership, our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Tony Miller for all his past work on ROSA's behalf. At the AGM, Tony Miller was duly proposed and elected to the post of a Vice President, this being the only honorary lifetime position that ROSA now bestows and one which suitably recognises such achievements. In this way the Association was following the tradition and example of our previous President, Stan Cocks thus enabling Tony Miller to share this honour alongside our current Vice Presidents, Mike Paterson, Alan Sidaway and Stuart Ellis.

I have to report that subsequently Tony Miller declined this appointment to join our Vice Presidents.

Secondly, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate and to welcome Brian Hord CBE as the new President of ROSA. Members may recall that Brian recently retired as Chairman of ROSA following his move down to Bexhill-on-Sea.

Before continuing I also wish to thank all the current ROSA Committee members for their hard work and their dedication to ROSA, and to so successfully bringing to fruition the many events, new merchandising items and fresh ideas, not least of which was ROSA's very own Lotto. I readily appreciate the difficulties that present themselves, as most of us still have our family commitments to juggle alongside demanding and responsible jobs that often take many of us away from home.

It has also been very pleasing to see Walter Bass and Stuart Ellis taking up your Committee's open invitation still to attend the monthly meetings. A particular thank you goes to Derek Pearce for ensuring Walter is picked up and then safely taken home. With meetings being so well attended it may sometimes be a squeeze getting everyone into our lounge, but there is always room for ROSA members and friends.

As reported elsewhere, there seems to be no prospect of us returning to The Lodge in the near future for our ROSA Committee meetings, but I have to say that Committee nights at our home are a most amiable affair, which Denise and I really enjoy, and are more than happy to continue hosting.

It has been extremely gratifying to see ROSA's ties with Beaumont School strengthening, not only in their accommodating welcome on Reunion Days, but also with the introduction of The Reedham Prize, more about which you can read on page 29.

Throughout this edition of Rosabeam you will find not only some warm memories of friendship and times gone by, but also some heartening stories of family and friends having been reunited after very many years without any contact. This is after all what our Association is primarily about, its members and their fellowship.

With a strong ROSA we can, not only maintain, but also increase our support for the Reedham Trust, something that is happening year on year, thereby enabling us to give back to today's children, who like us needed help when circumstances became difficult.

This time last year the revised Constitution document was sent out for all Members to review, before being voted on at the AGM. After much debate during the AGM the votes that had been previously registered with the Secretary, were added to those expressed on the day and the result was for an overwhelming acceptance of the revised document, which has now been formally adopted.

Names for the suggested Honours Board are still welcomed, though no more have been proposed since the Newsletter. We hope to develop this idea to be displayed in the Museum and also as a 'Web Board' similar to the 'President's Board' which is currently on the website.

I am pleased to see that the level of donations by the members via ROSA to the Reedham Trust has already exceeded the total monies donated last year! This is despite the direct donations now made by some members to the Trust. We expect that many members took the opportunity of completing the 'Donations Section' on the Reedham Trust leaflet that we sent you with your Newsletter in May. The Trust has expressed their appreciation to the many ROSA members who have donated directly to the Trust in the last year either under the Gift Aid Scheme* or through a bequest.

Something that has been noticed by the Committee and our new Auditor is that ROSA's donations to the Reedham Trust are not getting the income tax advantage to which they would be entitled under the Gift Aid Scheme*. In fact since 6th April 2000, which is how far back a claim can still be made; there could be a potential windfall to the Reedham Trust of up to £1000.

To be able to claim back this tax and also to ensure that all current and future donations from ROSA members can gain the maximum benefit for the Trust, you will find your new Subscription Form now has a 'Gift Aid declaration' on it. By simply completing this, the Trust could benefit by an additional 28 pence for every £1 you have donated since 6th April 2000, and continue to donate, whether this is done directly through your Subscription Forms or through any merchandising sales.

That's all you have to do – Our Treasurer will do the rest and we'll amaze you with the total amount!!

****NB: To qualify for Gift Aid, you must be a UK tax payer and what you pay in Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax must at least equal the amount the charity will claim in the tax year.***

The ROSA Lotto was a great success not only for our winning members but also for the good causes, primarily ROSA and The Reedham Trust (full details on page 14). Thanks must go to Sean Matthews for coming up with the idea and to the Committee for bringing it to a successful climax. Thanks to Richard and Marie Clivaz who flew in from Australia to do the draw, well it sounded good!

Seriously though Richard and Marie were on a European tour and arranged their itinerary so as to be in England on Reunion Day, thereby easily winning the accolade for the furthest journey. Though they were not the only overseas visitors this year, as Jim and Helen Gillies flew from Spain to be with us too. I'm pleased to say that Jim was one of 3 new Life Members signed up at the Reunion. Jim's family (his father was the last Reedham Engineer) were also the last residents of The Lodge.

Just a quick reminder, that where possible all ROSA events and functions are now arranged to fall on the 3rd Saturday of a given month. We hope that this will help members to plan well ahead.

The Museum continues to attract interest and we look forward to learning more of the proposed development plans that our Curator, Mike Paterson, has in store.

The merchandising wing, which is 'under new management', continues to do well and we are very pleased with the new lines Ernie has introduced. Please keep supporting him, which in turn helps support the Trust – and the tea really does taste better out of a 'Reedham mug'. What do you mean you don't have one? Then may I suggest you treat yourself to one for Christmas?

On that note, and on behalf of my wife, Denise, and all the members of your Committee we would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy year for 2005.

George Kanetti
Chairman

GENERAL SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S REPORTS

Please note the new contact details for our Secretary & Treasurer as below:

Mrs Maureen Jones (General Secretary)
Mr John Jones (Treasurer)
40 Rowtown
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 1HQ

Telephone No: 01932 848385
Email: rosa@reedham.org.uk



It does not seem possible that a year has passed since our first report for Rosabeam. It has been a very busy and full year.

Swimathon: In February George, our Chairman, pulled together at very short notice a group of six swimmers to represent ROSA and swim for the Reedham Trust at the Purley Rotary Club's Swimathon. Our two boys, Jonathan and Matthew, were part of that group and they have recorded their memories of that day in Rosabeam (see page 28). We were delighted that ROSA managed to raise a fantastic £601 for Purley Rotary, £360 of which went directly to The Reedham Trust.

Reunion and Events: There have been many opportunities for Old Scholars to get together during the year; Golf Day at Burgess Hill in April; Salisbury in May; Littlehampton in July; Isle of Wight in September. However, the highlight of the year was again our Annual Reunion in June at Beaumont School. This was a brilliant day, which saw a number of Old Scholars coming along for the first time, and also many Old Scholars returning after many years of absence. Beaumont School once again did us proud - the children made the very attractive table decorations in Reedham colours. They had also put together a collage on the history of Reedham, which many Old Scholars found extremely interesting. One memorable highlight of the day was the 'heads and tails' event. This culminated in a 'duel' between Walter Bass and Tali Atvars. Tali eventually won the 'duel' and very generously put his winnings directly back into the pot – Thank you Tali! We have had some very good feedback on the Reunion and if you have any ideas of what you would like to see next year, please let us know.



Membership: Our membership is still steadily increasing and this is mainly due to the responses we are receiving via the website. We especially welcome Sue Hassanein and Lesley Ackerley, both from The Reedham Trust office, as our newest Associate members – Currently our Membership stands at 353 and rising!!!

Lotto: There was a great deal of excitement at the Reunion as the very first ROSA Lotto Draw took place. The ROSA Lotto has proved extremely successful – with 152 shares purchased in its first year. The top prize of £500 went to Joy Davis. Thank you to all who took part. Photographs of the lucky winners are on the back cover and a report on the Lotto is on page 14. Details of how to take part in the 2005 ROSA Lotto Draw are on the enclosed Lotto Form. Remember you have to be in it to win! Good Luck to those taking part next year!

Finances: We were very happy this year to be in a position to bring down the cost of tickets for the Reunion to £10 per person. This was due to the small profits made in the previous two years, mainly from the Raffles. The intention of the Reunion is always just to break even, so with your continued excellent support we will be able to keep the new low price for 2005. Please do check your Subs Forms this year regarding the Gift Aid Scheme that could further benefit the Trust.

Constitution: In Rosabeam 2003 the entire membership were invited to vote at this year's AGM on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. Following some lengthy discussion, an overwhelming majority voted in favour of the proposed amendments, there was just one vote against.

We are looking forward to another busy year, and hope to see you at one of the many events being organising throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any other ideas.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, and all good wishes for 2005.

Maureen & John Jones

THE REEDHAM TRUST REPORT

Caring for children since 1844

The
Reedham
Trust

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Trust Secretary: Jean Watkins

Caseworker: Susan Hassanein

September 2004

Dear ROSA Member

Yet again, the last twelve months have been very busy for the Trust and we are pleased to report that our grant expenditure to children in need increased from £265,000 (2002/03) to £295,000 (2003/04).

We continue to give grants to children who are without one or both parents. All the cases we approve are different, but our aim is always the same – to provide a child with the stability and care that they so desperately need at a crucial time in their lives.

The cost of maintaining children at boarding school continues to rise and, in common with other charities in recent years, it has not been possible to maintain the level of income from our investments. The Trustees are therefore constantly seeking new ways of attracting additional resources.

Fundraising plays a major part in this, and we would like to say a big thank you to all those ROSA members who have helped raise funds for the Trust over the past year. In February we were very pleased to see several members of ROSA and their families join with other supporters of the Trust to take part in the annual Purley Rotary Club Swimathon, which raised a total of £900 for the Trust.

We would also like to express appreciation to all those individual ROSA members who donate to the Trust. There has been a considerable increase this year in donations received under the Gift Aid Scheme – we welcome donations on a monthly or an annual basis – whatever the donor prefers.

The Trust was also pleased to receive a number of substantial legacies over the past year – several of these were bequests from old scholars. So, please do consider leaving the Trust a legacy in your will.

We are very grateful to all those members who have purchased ROSA merchandise during the year – as Reedham receives a percentage of income from these sales. Is there no end to the range of goods offered for sale by ROSA? – We understand that mugs and mousemats have recently been added to the list!

The Trust was disappointed, although not altogether surprised, that the application for a National Heritage Grant to make improvements to the Museum was unsuccessful. However, the Museum continues to attract considerable interest, and we will make the required improvements on a gradual basis, helped by a very generous donation recently from an Old Scholar, enabling us to move ahead with our plans.

The Trust was saddened to learn of the death of old scholar Denis Long in March 2004. He, together with his wife Win, who died in December 2003, were life-long supporters of Reedham. The Trust was very grateful to receive so many donations in memory of Denis and Win.

Looking ahead to next year, we have a **Golf Day planned for 16 June 2005**, so will any golfers amongst you please make a diary note of the date. Ian Southerden, an old scholar who participated in the last Golf Day is keen to encourage more ROSA members to take part and will be liaising with the Trust with a view to entering several ROSA teams.

If any ROSA member would like a copy of our 2004 Annual Report then contact us at the Lodge and we will of course send you a copy. Finally, Sue and Lesley were pleased to join me in becoming Associate Members of ROSA this year – we send our very best wishes to you all for 2005.

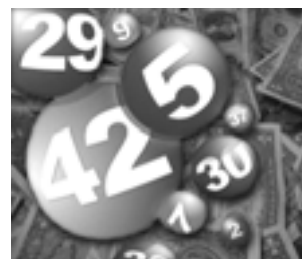
Yours sincerely

JEAN WATKINS (MRS)
TRUST SECRETARY

ROSA LOTTO

There was a real buzz of excitement at the Reunion in anticipation of the first ever ROSA Lotto draw.

The new ROSA Lotto was being drawn for the very first time at the 2004 Annual Reunion, giving this historic occasion a new twist. The ROSA Lotto game, based on the unique method of combining the Old School numbers with the year in which you left the School, was concluding its first year. The idea, put into motion in late November 2003, is now proving to be a great favourite and a success with our members. With 152 shares sold in its first year, we are greatly encouraged that it will flourish even more next year, as other members see how well it has done, and how well they could do too!



Around the reunion hall the amount in the fund was displayed and this was changing constantly as people rushed right up to the last minute to support the cause. The deadline to buy a ticket passed and the Lotto Fund finally stood at a whopping £1520. This was accordingly allocated as follows;

Prize Fund: £760.00 Good Causes: £745.00 Administration: £15.00

A very generous donation had been offered so as to guarantee a first prize of £500 and encourage participation. In so doing £875 was paid to the Lotto winners whilst donations to the nominated good causes (mainly ROSA and The Reedham Trust) will see these benefiting to the tune of £745. The Committee will finalise the allocation of monies to good causes when the accounts at year-end on 31st Dec, have been prepared. Full details will appear in the Newsletter and the ROSA accounts.

Richard and Marie Clivaz, who were over from Australia for the Reunion, were invited to make the draw. The tension mounted as the balls were given one final good swirl.



Richard & Marie prepare for the Draw

The 5 lucky numbers were drawn in turn by Marie and Richard. The winner of a cheque for £500, was Joy Davis (nee Watson). Joy couldn't be with us on the day, but would soon get to hear of her good fortune (see below).

Second prize, of £200, went to Ian Southerden (was Green) who was attending his first Reunion.

Third prize, of £100, went to Pam Harbour (nee Abbott).

Fourth prize, of £50 went to Jim Eastabrook.

Fifth prize, of £25, went to Tanya Rocks (nee Wardman).

We hope next year's Lotto prize money will be even greater as the fund continues to grow and let's not forget that as the fund grows, so too does the money that is available for our good causes.

A big "Thank you" to everyone who supported the Lotto. It wouldn't have worked without you and to steal a catch phrase remember, "You've got to be in it to win it."

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- **Joy Davis** - Hi Maureen, Thanks for the cheque that arrived ok. We were sorry to miss the reunion, but hopefully next year. Please find attached two photos with the cheque.
 - **Ian Southerden** - told us that Ken Davis just happened to be his late brother's best friend at school. Ian was able to ring Ken and Joy and give them their great news.
 - **Pam Harbour** - Hi Maureen, Well! What a wonderful surprise to receive 3rd prize of £100 in the first Lotto draw, I enclose a "mug shot", as requested. Prior to winning, I thought it was a splendid idea, I now think it's fantastic, but I would, wouldn't I? How interesting that 3rd, 4th & 5th were all old scholars at Reedham during my stay which was 1949 - 56. Thank you very much for all your hard effort on behalf of ROSA.
 - **Tanya Rocks** - Our family were very lucky at the Reunion. Penny, my sister, won an enormous bottle of brandy in the raffle, but swapped it for chocolates instead! Then I won £25 in the Lotto! I was very pleased indeed! This Lotto is not so big that there's no chance of winning, which makes it more fun, and it raises money for a very good cause. My winnings? Money for shoes!
 - **Photographs of our five lucky winners can be found on the back cover of your Rosabeam**

Please see the ROSA Lotto Registration Form in Rosabeam for details of how you can take part in the 2005 draw. Members can also find full details on the website or by contacting the Secretary.

MINUTES OF THE 2004 AGM

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Beaumont School, Old Lodge Lane, Purley, on Saturday 19th June 2004

Chairman's Welcome

I would like to officially welcome you all to this year's Annual Reunion and the AGM, particularly to those of you who have travelled a long way to be with us today. Richard and Marie Clivaz have come all the way from Australia and Jim and Helen Gillies, emigrated to Spain earlier this year, but have returned to be with us again today. Also a special welcome to those of you who are here for the first time or who are returning after many years.

We hope that you have been enjoying the new format for the day and the Committee would appreciate your feedback on this. Remember it is your day, so please let us know if you prefer the running order with an early meal.

Congratulations again to Joy Davis on being the first ever winner of the ROSA Lotto; £500 goes to her. This was an idea put forward by Sean Matthews and has been a great success and thank you to all our members around the world who have supported it. We look forward to having even more members taking part next year and therefore having more money for our supported good causes and prize money for ROSA Members.

We still have many exciting things arranged for you today. I hope you have all been supporting Stuart on the Raffle – he has some outstanding prizes this year. Thank you to all the people who have given so generously to the Raffle. I look forward to catching up with any of you I've missed so far today, sometime during the course of the evening.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following:

Shirley (nee Spooner) & Mike Mockford, Richard & Brenda Newcombe, Brenda & Tony Barber, Eileen (nee Briggs) & Frank Jewell, Mike Bouchier, Derrick Smith, Paul Atkinson, Russell Kennard, David Connor, Jean Watkins, Sue Hassanein, Lesley Ackerley, Iris Swetnam (nee Thompson), Irene Rolph, Beryl Keeble (nee Vincent), Peter Small, William (Bill) Robinson, John Edgar Jones, Patricia Beares (nee Plumbridge), Alan Sidaway, Penny Johnson (nee Whittaker) & Leslie Warrior.

Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 21st June 2003

These were agreed as a true record by the Committee in November 2003 and issued to Members via Rosabeam. Copies were also available on the day.

Proposed by: Derek Pearce, Seconded by: Maureen Jones.

Matters Arising – Proposed Revisions to the Constitution

The Chairman drew the meeting's attention to Item 4 on the Agenda. As reported last year the Committee had been working very hard to take on board all the comments received from Members regarding the Constitution and a revised version was sent out to all Members with their Rosabeam, last November. This allowed all Members a full six months in which to review the amendments and revisions to the Constitution, before voting today on whether to accept these changes. The Chairman reported that to date no specific queries or questions had been raised to the Secretary.

Members not able to attend today, were invited to cast their vote by registering it with the Secretary, who has received two of these which will be added to those indicated by a show of hands today.

The Chairman then called upon the Secretary to proceed with the voting.

Editor's Note: A discussion then developed, effectively between Richard Clivaz and the Chairman, which for clarity has been recorded in detail here rather than in the normal minutes' format.

Richard Clivaz (RC) raised some points on the Constitution stating he thought it had been approved two years ago, when he was one of the signatories. He said he was surprised and disappointed to receive this with Rosabeam because there are some facts in there that he was not happy with.

The Chairman reiterated that in the 6 months members have actually had to compare the original document with the revisions, nobody has actually raised anything specific with the Secretary.

RC declared his surprise that no questions or queries had been raised because there were some things that he felt needed specific clarification. He voiced his concern that there had not been a point-by-point comparison of the changes proposed and wished to raise some particular items. The Chairman enquired of RC what these might be so that they may be discussed.

RC Under Item 2: Aims. The Reedham Trust has been dropped specifically from this section?

The Chairman replied that the revised wording now states '**and those associated with the former School**'. The Trust are still associated with the former school, so are therefore still included.

It was explained that we do not want to keep revisiting the Constitution. The Committee has spent much time on it and it has caused many problems. We are trying to cover the whole of the future of ROSA here, not just the immediate, but the long term too. The proposed revisions seek to try and deal with any and all foreseeable changes that may occur in the future thus avoiding the Constitution document having to be amended every year just to react to a particular new situation.

RC then queried the need for a second document.

It was stated that the Committee felt that the amendments being proposed, better reflected ROSA's aims and values. Our true aims are the promotion of ROSA, first and foremost and then anything associated with the former School

RC Under Item 13: Winding up. Why is the Trust no longer the sole recipient of any available funds?

The Chairman stated that the assumption in the original document is that the Trust will outlast ROSA. No provision was made for funds to go to anybody else should the Association outlast the Trust. Primarily it will be the Trust, but we don't want to amend this document yet again should the Trust cease before ROSA. The Committee wanted to make these changes once and for all.

RC said he thought that this was being pushed through irrespective of what the membership thinks.

The Chairman replied that all Members were given 6 months to review the documents and invited to give their opinions, but to date RC was the only member to raise any specific questions.

RC Under Item 10: Subscriptions in relation to voting rights and terms of annual membership? And also Under Item 9: Cessation of Membership in relation to voting rights, as it implied that someone can be an unpaid annual member and still have voting rights.

The Chairman emphasised that only paid up Members are entitled to voting rights and that it is not currently specified when membership could be terminated. He also reminded the meeting that the original Constitution totally excluded Associates. Even though all but 8 of our Associate members are registered as Life Members, they had no voting rights, and he made it clear how important it was for **all** ROSA Members, Old Scholars and Associates alike, to have their thoughts and votes heard. Our Associates, who make up 11% of our membership are valued members, who support ROSA yet have no say in its running. This situation is unacceptable, because if ROSA is to continue after we pass on, it can only do so through Associate membership, and so their numbers will grow.

The Chairman said that this document was put together with a view to the long term and was a guide for those that come after us, on how we would like ROSA to be run. There were many omissions from the original Constitution. There was no 'Procedure for Change', which should have been picked up on. This document is simply addressing all the points raised by the individual Members and the Committee members and has taken up an inordinate amount of Committee time.

The meeting was told that the Committee does not wish to cease anyone's membership. However as our costs are escalating, we cannot continue to send out publications etc to those that continue not to contribute. Indeed, RC had commented on these costs himself in the past.

This does not mean to say that after 2 years, we will cease someone's membership, but they would receive a letter from the Secretary asking if they wished to still remain a member. After all, we do not want to lose any members whatsoever.

Subs are due in January and any voting is normally in June. Come next June you can technically still be a member, but will not have any voting rights, a situation that needs to be policed and which places another burden on the Secretary. However allowing a period of membership to lapse prevents the Secretary from otherwise having to chase up members every year.

Lindsey Trotter (LT) (nee Bellinger) suggested specifying this as a 'period of grace', although it is already implicit in what has already been said, we are just giving members one year's grace to remember to pay their subscriptions.

David Cox (DC) said this is correct "as it polices the situation better than it is at the moment".

Paul Cotton (PC) addressed the Chair saying "as a Committee member, he was never in favour of a constitution and that it was never put to a Committee vote to have a Constitution. In fact we are living with a Constitution, which I think most Committee Members would wish away. This is precisely the point I wish to make. It takes just one person to take out one little section, making a point of order when we are all here just wanting to progress with the meeting. A sensible suggestion has been made, could we progress? My point would be do we still need a Constitution if we are going to be the friendly society we claim to be?"

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Revised Constitution could only be adopted if it was approved at the meeting by the membership. We already have a Constitution. The choice is; do you want the revised version or what you had before?

The point was made to RC that it would have been much better if he had highlighted his concerns before the meeting as was requested both in Rosabeam and the Newsletter, so that the Committee could have addressed these and taken any appropriate action before the AGM.

To which RC said "You don't steamroller something without discussing it".

The Chairman replied, "6 months notice is not steamrolling anything".

DC said, "I think the steamrolling is happening now, which I was expecting".

The Chairman said that it was remiss of RC to bring these points up just today and delay the meeting, especially after having had 6 months in which to compare the documents and comment.

RC said he felt the AGM was the right forum to discuss his points.

The meeting was told that the changes had been made following all the comments previously received. RC's comments haven't been able to be incorporate into this document. It would have been more appropriate to have had RC's comments sooner, so that they could have been incorporated into this document.

RC Under Item 3: Regarding making donations to other children's charities in addition to the Trust. Why should the Committee be the ones to determine where the money goes?

DC replied, "Because we're elected"

The Chairman gave the example of the Aberfan disaster and asked all the members present if any one of them would object to donating monies to such a relief fund if approved at an AGM. The Chairman reminded the meeting that no such donation could be made without first being proposed and approved by the Membership at either an AGM or an EGM. There was no objection raised.

The point here, once again, is that this is a document aimed at trying to cover more than just the narrow band to which the Constitution was original intended for.

At this point Liz Foreman (LF) (nee Gowan) interrupted to say, "We voted for a Committee. Can't we trust that our Committee will do what's right – isn't this why we have them"?

The Members present enthusiastically indicated their accord with this opinion.

The Chairman stated that the Committee does not take any major decisions without the approval of the membership. He asked for one example of where the Committee had made a major decision without putting it to the membership - none could be given.

The Chairman pointed out to the meeting that the original Constitution document actually gave the Committee full powers to make whatever changes it felt necessary for the furtherment of ROSA. However this Committee is open and democratic and does not work behind closed doors.

Taking LF's point, you voted us in - if you don't think we are doing a good job, you can vote us out.

"There's no chance of that Mr Chairman", was the call from the floor.

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions – no more were raised.

The Chairman summed up by saying that RC had raised some points to be considered which could be addressed by simply amending the Appendix. He asked the meeting if this was a suitable suggestion? The meeting agreed that the Appendix should be amended to clarify the situation regarding the period of one year's grace membership and also voting rights.

He also re-affirmed that no major decision is ever made without approval at an AGM, or an EGM if needed. This is implicit in the way ROSA is run, as the Committee do not have the final say in everything.

Referring back to his opening point regarding the total number of votes registered, for or against, from the entire membership prior to the AGM being just two (one of which was lodged earlier, by a member who could not stay for the meeting). He said that this reflected how the majority of the members really feel about having a Constitution for ROSA. It had been talked about before but never been considered to be a good idea for ROSA.

The Chairman stated that, as RC was fully aware, the difficulties caused by the introduction of the Constitution had actually been the worst thing to happen to ROSA in living memory.

The Chairman referred back to Paul Cotton's point that many of the Committee would like not to have had the Constitution, but we've got it and we're not going to vote it out. We are going to get it right and by addressing the shortcomings in the original document, this is what the revised version is attempting to do.

The Chairman went on to say that the original Constitution document, which was proposed to the membership, had been pursued under the apprehension that voting in the Constitution would actually help the Trust obtain a Lottery grant for the Museum. Something, which turned out to be a complete fabrication and an issue that the Chairman thought, should be addressed more importantly than Richard's points being made here today.

Hazel Cox (HC) (nee Lestourgeon) asked if this was the right forum to maybe decide on whether we still want to keep the Constitution or not.

The Chairman replied that this was the right forum as we are here to conduct the business of the Association, however it also needed to be in perspective.

HC felt that as the Constitution is causing this much conflict, it should go and that we ought to decide about having a vote on this next year. After all we are supposed to be united as we all have something in common.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by calling on the Secretary, Maureen Jones, to proceed with the voting on the proposed Revised Constitution with the suggested revision to the Appendix, specifying a period of 'one year's grace' for membership and specifying current Annual Subscription must be paid to be entitled to Voting Rights. The vote was by a show of hands to add to the two votes already recorded.

Before voting commenced RC asked if the proceedings were being minuted? The Chairman confirmed that they were being minuted, recorded and will be published in the next Rosabeam.

After the initial show of hands the Chairman had to remind those present that only paid up Full Members could vote, highlighting the fact that our Associate Members were currently still unable to vote and re-emphasising that 11% of the current membership cannot have a say in what is happening today, something which this Committee thought wrong.

The results were:	<i>Against the Proposed Revisions</i>	<i>1 vote</i>
	<i>For the Proposed Revisions</i>	<i>36 votes</i>
	<i>Abstentions</i>	<i>None</i>

The Chairman declared the Revised Constitution, as at October 2003, had been duly adopted.

The meeting then received reports from the various officers, as follows;

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported on another busy and exciting year and thanked all the Members of our Committee for all their hard work and their support throughout the year in bringing all the Mini Reunions and the Lotto to such successful fruition.

He also thanked Ann Welby for doing such a great job in organising, not only last year's, but also this year's Golf Day and called upon Ann to receive a gift to express our sincere thanks to her.

In February, ROSA members and their families took part in the Rotary Club Swimathon and swam on behalf of The Reedham Trust. ROSA's six team members raised a total of £601 of which The Trust has received £360; the remainder went to the Rotary Club. In total The Trust received £900 from this event.

The membership of ROSA continues to grow and a particularly warm welcome went to those new members who joined us on the day.

Rosabeam was sent out to members in November, which will now be its new publishing date. Any contributions for Rosabeam should be submitted by the 30th September. Thanks were given for the many words of appreciation received for Rosabeam and the Newsletter.

Members were thanked for their support and encouragement for the new Committee and were assured that it is working hard for ALL the Members of the 'ROSA Family'.

The Chairman revealed that Tony Miller, who was not in attendance, had announced his wish to resign as ROSA's President. The Chairman extended the gratitude of ROSA for the 29 years he had served as President.

In recognition of Tony Miller's outstanding long service to ROSA, the Members were invited to add his name to those of our other Vice Presidents, thereby following in his predecessor, Stan Cocks', footsteps. The post of a Vice President is the only life appointment that ROSA now bestows, and a suitable honour for the services he has given.

Sadly we lost Denis Long this year, following on closely after the loss of his wife, Win. Our thoughts are with the family and in line with the family's wishes and in remembrance of Denis a donation to The Reedham Trust was made on behalf of ROSA. Arthur Morris, who is our oldest Vice President, is not enjoying the best of health. We are in contact with Arthur's son, Hugh, who informed us that Arthur was fighting back in true Reedham spirit. Our best wishes go to Arthur.

** Since the AGM, we received the sad news that Arthur had passed away. Please see the tributes on pages 58 and 59*

Available to be viewed were the entries from the children of Beaumont School for the ROSA sponsored 'Reedham Prize'. Judging would take place this month with the presentations being made in early July at one of the School's Assemblies.

Our thanks must go to Beaumont School for again allowing us the use of their school and for the lovely table decorations made by the children, under the superb guidance of Carole Bridger. By way of thanks to Carole, we shall be presenting her with a selection of ROSA Merchandising items, including a framed print of The Lodge, which she is particularly fond of.

It was reported to members that at the last meeting of the Board of Management of The Reedham Trust, our wish to have the continued use of The Lodge for our Committee meetings had again been turned down. This decision has been made without the courtesy of ever inviting a representative of the ROSA Committee to discuss the issue, in spite of our many requests to do so. A copy of the letter from the Trust was available with the Secretary for members to read.

NB This letter is included as an Appendix to the AGM Minutes so that members may read this and if so inclined, take up the invitation to write directly to the Trust Secretary with your remarks.

Thanks went to Scotts Caterers for again providing us with a lovely lunch.

Finally members were reminded to watch out for details of forthcoming events, flyers for the Littlehampton and Isle of Wight trips were available and to ensure they had their raffle tickets.

ROSA Secretary's Report – Maureen Jones

The Secretary welcomed everyone to another successful Reunion at Beaumont School, which has now become our base for this event. She thanked everyone for coming – and we had 80 for lunch.

She thanked the Committee and all ROSA Members for their support since taking over as Secretary in August 2003.

We continue to make contact with a number of new Old Scholars through the website and we have a least one here today, who whilst browsing the Internet, searched on ROSA or Reedham. We have three new Life Members today and a number of enquiries from people interested in joining ROSA, which we are following up. Lesley Ackerley and Sue Hassanein, who work for the Reedham Trust also expressed an interest in joining ROSA and have been invited to do so.

One of the very enjoyable and rewarding parts of this role is contacting ROSA members from all eras, not just my own. I have recently been in telephone contact with Walter Bass. Marjorie Cousins (one of the Gibson girls) and Lewis Curry, whose parents were at Reedham, to name but a few.

Finally, a very BIG and sincere "Thank you" to Denise and George for hosting our Committee meetings in their home (which has now become our home!). The meetings have become somewhat of a social event now, but I can assure you that we really do manage to cover the Agenda in between sandwiches, tea, coffee, cake and wine! It is a most productive atmosphere. Ernie actually asked for his packed lunch to be forwarded the last time he gave his apologies for not attending.

Denise is a true unsung hero and I would like to present her with a small personal token of the Committee's appreciation for all those sandwiches!

There were no presents for George – but I'm sure I speak for the whole Committee and the Membership when saying you have really kept things going this year, when it has not always been easy. Your enthusiasm and great personal sacrifice are much appreciated. Keep up the good work!

George thanked Maureen and then reminded the membership that the open invitation to attend any of our Committee meetings was still there - it might be a squeeze but we will get you in somehow!! Please just check with the Secretary to confirm the times and dates; Normally this is 6.30pm on the second Thursday in the month.

Treasurer's Report – John Jones

NB Copies of the Accounts for period 01.01.03 to 31.12.03 were available for members.

The first task following last year's AGM was to find and then appoint a new Auditor, Keith Robbins who has no connection with ROSA or Reedham. A nominal fee of £50 was agreed for his services.

A question was raised asking if someone would do the job of Auditor for free again or whether Keith Robbins might accept less? The Chairman said he would ask, but in the commercialised world in which we now live he felt it most unlikely. The Chairman reported that the Committee had received just one disapproving comment regarding having to now pay for this service – however this was a particularly unhelpful remark, as the person making it had no alternative solution nor could they propose a willing name for the for position, in spite of being asked to do so.

ROSA's donations to the Reedham Trust were up by over £200 on the previous year to a total of £1053. This was made up from direct donations through subscription forms and also donations and a percentage on merchandising sales. Total of merchandising sales were up by over £250.

A profit of £165 was made from functions including the Reunion, Golf Day and Isle of Wight events.

The end of year balance showed a deficit of £1126. This was due to two main factors, the production costs of two Rosabeams in the same financial year, as this moved from January to November and the payment for the new Notelets and the Reedham Revisited photo booklet.

Future accounts will include the merchandising stock assets, as funds have been heavily invested in these over the years. The accounts need to reflect the value of the goods, which currently stand at approx £5000.

A separate Lotto account has been set up within our main Barclays account and details will be included in future accounts.

Thank you all for your support over the last year.

Report on ROSA Merchandising Activities – Ernie Rayner

The past 12 months have seen a levelling off in sales of ROSA items as with a limited membership and a relatively static range of items it is to be expected.

At last year's AGM total sales and receipts, in the 23 months under the new merchandising wing, to the end of May 2003 totalled £3847. The figure at the end of May 2004 amounted to £4360.

In the absence of a member of the Reedham Trust today, I would like to thank all those people who have bought items from us as substantial monies go to the Trust.

To help fellow old scholars and friends both old and new your Committee have been discussing new ways to help us remember our childhood days and today I am pleased to say that we have the very attractive Reedham Mugs and Mousemats on sale for the first time today – and they are going very well. We have decided to retain the offer of "Reedham Packs" which offer real value for money. These have proven of interest to newer ROSA members who want to buy 1 of everything!

Please keep supporting the merchandising because some of the money does go to supporting the Reedham Trust. Thank you.

Report on Mini Reunions – Sean Matthews

Sean began by reminding members that these mini outings were what the Committee and ROSA are really about which is getting people to enjoy themselves, enjoy the days and meet up with old and new school friends.

Littlehampton was another successful 'get together'. Ernie drove the bus and we started by going up the drive and then down to Littlehampton to ride the train, the Wild Mouse, visit the boating lake and to have a meal and 'catch up on old times'. Anyone interested in coming should see Ernie.

The Isle of Wight is a trip we run every year. 16 people went along in September and met at the Woodvale for a meal. This is another good day out and you should see George for more details.

The Golf Day in April was a special day with Chris Montriou winning overall and Derek Pearce winning the putting competition.

Derek Pearce organised a reunion in the West Country, taking a reunion down to the people with difficulties travelling up so far as here. We all met up at the Red Lion for a special day in Salisbury, which is a good venue to people who may have difficulty making it to other areas. Some of us stayed overnight and did some sight seeing the next day and even viewed the Magna Carta.

Christmas lunch this year will be held at the Priory in Haywards Heath, a popular place with old scholars, which has a very lovely restaurant richly decorated with lights and an excellent carvery.

That's what we did last year, if you want to join in, which is what it is all about, then please register your interest in advance so we know who you are and that you want to go.

Reedham Museum Curator's Report (Mike Paterson) - George Kanetti

Mike Paterson, our Museum Curator, informed us that the Reedham Trust was unsuccessful in its bid for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Other avenues including Croydon Council's Cultural Development Manager and the Governments 'Awards for All' scheme have been actively investigated, but Mike informed us that neither of these schemes appears to be able to help us.

However some work has been carried out to remove the boiler from within one of the cupboards, which now allows more storage space.

Mike's thanks go to all those members who have contributed to the running costs of our Museum via ROSA Subs Forms, which raised almost £350 in the financial year 1st Jan 2003 to 31st Dec 2003.

Recent purchases for the Museum have included many more photo albums and display items.

Three new photos have been added to complement the framed set of past staff members.

Members were reminded that viewing arrangements are either through the Trust office or with Mike.

ROSA Historian's Report (Derrick Smith) – George Kanetti

I must first offer my apologies to members for not being able to attend this years Reunion. A very long-standing engagement unfortunately falls on the same date. I know that your hard-working committee will have done everything possible to ensure a successful and enjoyable day, and I shall be thinking of you.

The Chairman informed the meeting that in fact it was Derrick's Ruby Wedding Anniversary and recorded our congratulations to Derrick and his wife, Janet.

The main item in my report must be the continued growth of the list of pupils and staff who passed through Reedham. This now totals 5,347 individuals (3,756 boys and 1,591 girls). In most cases I have been able to record the years in which they entered and left Reedham, but as the list begins in the year 1855 it is sometimes difficult to get this right. It was interesting to find some 60 children and staff in the 1851 Census records and these were those resident in the building at Stamford Hill which Andrew Reed used before Reedham was built. I estimate that there are probably about 1000 more names still to be found so if you can help, please get in touch.

Family history enquiries about former pupils continue to reach me and I am always pleased to search the records and report back with findings or suggestions. I am continuing, as time allows, to research into other aspects of Reedham history and I also continue to add to my collection of first-hand accounts and reminiscences to do with the old school. I do urge all old scholars to commit something of their memories to paper or word processor and pass it on to me. It need not be a life history - although this would be welcome, but just a short, honest account of something that has stuck in your mind from your time at Reedham. I can promise you that it will be safely kept, and will hopefully, eventually prove an invaluable archive for future social historians. You are part of history.

IT Team Report – David Cox

A year goes by quickly these days, this is certainly the case with ROSA, and all the activity we've seen this year. I am happy to say that since the discussion board has been operating the communication updates have been less frenetic, and hopefully many of you now communicate directly through the e-mail links provided. On this note, please do let us know if you change your e-mail address, as we send flyers out and promise not to pester you if you request us not to! However we do get feedback that some mail bounces back, so with Broadband becoming more popular, be sure to keep us up to date with your current email address.

The web counter is nearing 12,000 visitors, and it is encouraging to know how many overseas Old Scholars have made their way back to us with the website as a useful and informal link. Pictures are one important part of the lifeblood, so please root through your old papers and see if there is anything to scan and send us just for interest. Remember you will find all the information about events, newsletters, abridged versions of Rosabeam, as well as all details of items to purchase from Ernie.

As a side note, I should also mention we will probably be using the Internet to raise some funds after the kind donation of a hand made Spanish classical guitar by our own ROSA historian Derrick Smith. Once I have confirmation of it's value we will likely place the item on eBay to raise funds.

Lastly even though the Internet can be plagued with viruses and pop-ups from time to time, those who manage to keep one step ahead, can make it a rewarding tool, and that is what we aim to do through the website. There are limits to what can be achieved at a sensible price, and that is why we use sponsored tools that show adverts on special pages such as Guest-books or Discussion forums. A bit like ITV, we got used to ignoring the adverts, but that way we don't have to pay a licence to use the service, so I hope you appreciate it has to be a balance, and in any case, we will not be going commercial on the main pages – which we do have to pay for!

Thank you to everyone who has made contact this year, and we look forward to bringing you many new things in the next 12 months.

Presentation of Accounts for Period - 01.01.03 to 31.12.03

The Chairman called for the accounts to be approved.

Approval of Accounts: Proposed by Derek Pearce, seconded by Ann Welby.

Election of Officers

Following Tony Miller's decision to step down as ROSA's President, the Chairman announced that one nomination had been received for President and this was Brian Hord.

There being no other nominations, the Chairman read out a brief résumé of Brian Hord's career for those who did not know him well.

Brian H Hord CBE FRICS – Brian was born in Hampstead, London on 20th June 1934, Boarded at Reedham between Sept 1939 and July 1950, Qualified as a Chartered Surveyor following a six year course as an evening student at Regent Street Polytechnic, London, had a career in the surveying profession and commercial property, Between 1957 and 1959 he did his National Service in the RAF as an Air Traffic Controller, He married Christine in 1960 and they have two sons, He was a Parliamentary Candidate at Darlington in both 1974 General Elections, Elected a Member of the European Parliament for London West (1979–84), Chairman of Bexley Health Authority (1986–92), Valuer Member of the London Rent Assessment Panel (1986–2004), Appointed CBE in 1979, ROSA Committee member (2000-02) and was Chairman of ROSA (2001-02).

Brian Hord was duly proposed and seconded as ROSA's new President.



Brian Hord then requested to address the meeting;

Chairman, fellow ROSA members and friends. It is a great honour to be invited to be the ROSA President. I'm very familiar with the long period of service that Tony Miller has given, not only as President, but Chairman previously. I understand that the rules now provide for the President to be for a period of one or two years. I'm relieved about that because I wouldn't wish to feel that I've got to soldier on for 20 or more years as President. There are probably many other people qualified to do this anyhow. But it is a great honour and I will obviously do all I can to serve the Association and help the Committee with their work, if that's required. But I have to say that I am really impressed with the work of the Committee under the leadership of George. We are seeing things at ROSA that probably 10 to 15 years ago we could never have anticipated possible and to think that the membership of a school that closed 25 years ago, coupled with the effects of Anno Domini, having increased I

think speaks volumes for the efforts and achievement of what the Committee has been bringing forth. So can I say thank you very much for appointing me as President. I wish everybody well in ROSA and particularly the Chairman and our Committee that has been serving us so well.

Moving on to the Vice Presidents the Chairman confirmed the names of the current Vice Presidents as: Arthur Morris, Stuart Ellis, Alan Sidaway and Mike Paterson. He then proposed that Tony Miller be elected to join the list of Vice Presidents. Tony Miller was then duly proposed and seconded.

Before electing on the Auditor the Chairman asked if there were any nominations for someone to do the job without charge? The issue of now paying for the services of an Auditor was raised to the Committee, however the person raising this could not suggest anyone else, despite being asked. It was questioned whether Mr Robbins would do the job for less? The Chairman said he would enquire, but as we now live in a commercialised society he did not feel optimistic. The Chairman asked for the Committee to be informed should someone become prepared to do the job for free.

The following details for the elected officers were recorded:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>
President	Brian Hord	Ernie Rayner	Derek Pearce
Vice Presidents	Tony Miller	George Kanetti	Brian Batchelor
Chairman	George Kanetti	Maureen Jones	Jane Roper
Treasurer	John Jones	David Cox	Stuart Ellis
Secretary	Maureen Jones	Tali Atvars	Mike Hogan
Auditor	Keith Robbins	Maureen Jones	Derek Pearce

Election of Committee

The following Members of the Committee were prepared to stand for the forthcoming year; David Cox, Paul Cotton, John Jones, Maureen Jones, Denise Kanetti, George Kanetti, Linda Lestourgeon, Sean Matthews, Derek Pearce, Ernie Rayner, Alan Sidaway and Derrick Smith.

There being no further nominations or volunteers to join the Committee the Chairman called for the Committee to be voted in 'en block'.

The above were duly nominated 'en block'. Proposed by: Mike Murdoch, seconded by Stuart Ellis.

Any Other Business

Hazel Cox (nee Lestourgeon) asked for a vote at next year's AGM to determine whether or not to keep the Constitution.

A request was made to give the reasons for and against having a Constitution or can we do without one? If there were to be a vote then this would mean people could make an informed decision.

The Chairman explained the reasons for having the Constitution as it being a guide to us, and those who follow us, on how ROSA has been run and how we would like it to continue to run. But he said that it is a framework, not 'tablets of stone', and it should adjust to suit the changing needs of ROSA.

The Chairman stated that the request for this item to be added to next years AGM Agenda would appear in Rosabeam and that any member wanting this to be added should let the Secretary know.

The Chairman summed up that such an action would take two years to materialise and would require a full postal vote. For this to progress members would first have to request that the question be placed on next year's AGM Agenda where a vote could be taken on whether to have a postal ballot the following year.

Much discussion took place on the merits or otherwise for keeping a Constitution.

Derek Pearce mentioned a sub committee, set up 25 years ago, found that there was no need for a Constitution in an organisation such as ours and he didn't think the situation had changed at all.

The Chairman said that was correct, but that effectively a few years ago another sub committee was formed which drew up a document that was put to the membership. This saw a very small return on a postal vote. Along with the fact that only 1 person, from the entire membership who could not be here today, actually registered a vote, summed up how much the Constitution matters to most people.

The Chairman apologised to the meeting for the inordinate length of time it had taken and then closed the meeting.

Stuart Ellis proposed a sincere vote of thanks to the Committee for arranging the Reunion Day.

Date of Next AGM – 18th June 2005

Following the AGM a presentation was made to Stuart Ellis by way of thanks for all his efforts, which again ensured another very successful Raffle. Our sincere thanks also went to all those members and friends who contributed towards the 60 plus prizes on offer.

****** STOP PRESS ******

The Chairman has to report that Tony Miller wrote to him to decline his appointment to the post of a Vice President, which the Membership unanimously elected him to at the AGM.

ROSA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

	2003 £	2002 £		2003 £	2002 £
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions	204	138	Rosabeam (including postage)	1,596	823
Life subscriptions	255	435	General postage	115	173
Rosabeam	741	876	Reedham Trust	1,053	850
Reedham Trust	739	714	Printing & stationery	265	247
Postage recovered	7	92	Museum expenses	155	214
			Presentations at AGM	142	-
			Gratuities	-	66
			Web site fees	-	140
			Bank charges	8	9
	<u>1,946</u>	<u>2,255</u>		<u>3,334</u>	<u>2,522</u>
Functions			Functions		
Re-union, Golf Day, Isle of Wight	1,512	1,138	Re-union, Golf Day, Isle of Wight	1,347	1,007
Christmas lunch	-	323	Christmas lunch	-	338
	<u>1,512</u>	<u>1,461</u>		<u>1,347</u>	<u>1,345</u>
Sales			Sales		
Bookmarks	76	224	Re-print "Home on the Hill"	-	2,209
Reedham video	70	120	Reedham revisited	600	-
Home on the Hill	113	277	Notelets	1,205	-
Photographs	30	150	Reedham video	75	-
Reedham revisited	275	-			
Ties/badges/tapes	16	43			
Notelets	411	-			
The Reader	-	-			
The Writer	9	-			
The Full Monty	32	-			
The Gallery	-	-			
Directory	37	57			
Postage recovered	46	76			
Donations per sales	235	151			
	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,098</u>		<u>1,880</u>	<u>2,209</u>
Sundries					
Donations & legacies	255	472			
Museum	347	394			
Interest	25	57			
	<u>627</u>	<u>923</u>			
Balance of expenditure over income	<u>1,126</u>	<u>339</u>			
	<u>6,561</u>	<u>6,076</u>		<u>6,561</u>	<u>6,076</u>
Represented by					
Current assets			Reserves		
Current account	1,756	877	Reserves brought forward	2,882	3,221
Building Society Account	-	2,005	Stock Carried Forward ***	-	-
	<u>1,756</u>	<u>2,882</u>	Deficit for the year	- 1,126	- 339
			Reserves carried forward	<u>1,756</u>	<u>2,882</u>

These accounts have been prepared from the books and records of the Reedham Old Scholars' Association and from other information supplied. They are in accordance with the books and records and reflect the financial position as at 31 December 2003 and the balance of expenditure over income for the year then ended.



Keith Robbins, SAT MCMA

6-May-2004

*** NB - ROSA Merchandising Stock has been identified as an item to be included under Reserves and will appear in next year's Accounts.

AGM APPENDIX – Letter from the Reedham Trust

Caring for children since 1844

The
Reedham
Trust

Mrs Maureen Jones
Secretary, R.O.S.A.
40 Rowtown
Addlestone
Surrey
KT15 1HQ

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Trust Secretary: Jean Watkins
Caseworker: Susan Hassanein

09 June 2004

Dear Maureen

I am writing on behalf of all members of the Board of Management of The Reedham Trust in response to your letter of the 26 May.

Board papers had already been circulated to members prior to receipt of your letter, therefore to avoid delaying an appropriate response, our Chairman arranged for copies of your letter to be circulated to all members present at the June Board Meeting.

Members had the opportunity to fully discuss the issue of use of The Lodge for R.O.S.A. meetings. Following a full review of the situation, Trustees were unanimous that due to the constraints placed upon the Trust by the Data Protection Act, the Health & Safety Act and the terms of the Trust's insurance, the decision taken by them in June 2003 remained as appropriate today as it did then.

Trustees were concerned to note your remark regarding comments received by you from members of your Association - both from the U.K. and overseas. Clearly these members are not aware of the detailed background to the decision regarding The Lodge. If you would like to supply us with the names and addresses of these members, I will willingly write to them to explain in detail the reasons for the Board's decision, and thus avoid any misunderstandings. A meeting to discuss their concerns would not change the decision of the Trustees in any way, as the Trustees have clear responsibilities with which they have to comply.

We appreciate the disappointment this decision will cause but hope you will understand the situation as it now stands.

Of course, as you know, R.O.S.A. members wishing to visit the Museum are always most welcome at The Lodge. Anyone wanting to visit should contact either myself or Mike Paterson, to ensure that someone will be at The Lodge when they call.

We continue to appreciate the support given to us by R.O.S.A. members and hope that your reunion goes well on 19 June.

Yours sincerely

JEAN WATKINS (MRS)
TRUST SECRETARY

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NB The ROSA Secretary has advised the Trust Secretary, Jean Watkins, that it would be most inappropriate for her to supply any names or address as requested in the above letter. However it was agreed that ROSA members could write directly to the Trust Secretary who will willingly answer any comments or questions that ROSA members may have.

Withdrawal of the Use of The Lodge – A Sample of Member's Feedback

Hello George - A note about an item in your report in the excellent Rosabeam. I am astounded that The Reedham Trust, an organisation that in its good work deals with sensitive and emotional matters, could be so insensitive as to send ROSA out of its home. For The Lodge is certainly '**home**' to our Association as far as I am concerned and in a way it is almost a shrine, being the only Reedham building remaining. So on both accounts it is the appropriate place for ROSA to be headquartered. Surely there is mutual benefit for continuing the custom of the past 25 years. The presence of ROSA at The Lodge provides an active connection with the past; right back to when Reedham was an idea in the mind of Andrew Reed. And let's not overlook the fact that a strong ROSA provides a steady stream of donations to the Trust. Having a ROSA Committee Member on the Board makes good sense because of the Reedham experience but that shouldn't be the only criterion for being able to hold our meetings there. I'm sure this is your top priority right now and want you to know you have my strong support.

Two organisations that share the name 'Reedham' should be able to co-operate. Someone isn't thinking straight. All best wishes.

Dear Maureen - I was distressed to read in the Chairman's last report that the use of The Lodge for committee meetings has been withdrawn. What a pity. My experience has been that any organisation needs a H.O. as a focal point. It is a place where people can come together and discuss on equal terms. We have lost the School and now to lose the Lodge as well, is a shame.

I hope that rule can be reversed soon for the benefit of our Organisation.

For Rosabeam - The Committee's loss of its focal point of The Lodge for its monthly meetings for over 24 years, now means it has to forgo that facility of being 'Open House' to any visiting Old Scholar, in particular those who return to the UK after many years abroad for an ad hoc meeting at the Committee's venue (as was often mentioned in Rosabeam).

The Association was founded approximately 90 years ago and may be considered complementary to the Reedham Trust; a monument to the success to our founder Dr Andrew Reed's quest in life, to sustain children in need physically and spiritually.

During those years the 'flame of continuity' has been passed on from the days of our early President Captain (Skipper) Lewis, and run voluntarily since the early twentieth century. Sadly the intransigent application of the Data Protection Act has become a damaging impediment to the smooth running of the Association, with no indication in the pipeline to resolve a problem, which **is** surmountable. In modern parlance the Trust appears to be inflicting a shot in its own foot!

Rosabeam - In 1980 ROSA were using The Lodge for their Committee meetings and I think at that time 6 members of ROSA were on the Reedham Children's Trust Committee as well. The situation of ROSA meetings without a Committee member from the Trust had never occurred before Mike and Tony left the Committee in June 2003. As a Committee, we were not immune from what the political and business world will call "natural wastage". We were all on 'Father Time's' waiting list!

Cyril Singer was reliable and meticulous in all matters legal. We know that he was involved in the groundwork of the sale of Reedham and probably when the Trust Constitution was formulated, making sure matters like insurance and legal liabilities were in the framework of the new constitution. Assuming that if he had relinquished his membership of the ROSA Committee, but was still a member of the Reedham Trust's Committee and that there was no other member of the Trust having a dual role on the two separate committees, he would without a doubt have pre-empted this existing invidious situation of the ROSA meetings being barred from using the Lodge for evening meetings for the reason which appears to the current members of the ROSA Committee as being a contentious issue, which is not unreasonable, especially because of the financial support ROSA gives so readily. Individual members of ROSA and other ex-scholars have included the Trust as beneficiaries in their Last Wills and Testaments, and no doubt will continue to do so. But the Trust should be aware of the length of time that ROSA has been in existence (approx 90 years) and the voluntary membership of the voted Committee members has been handed down like a torch.

As the Sergeant Major says, "Rules is Rules" and no doubt if Cyril Singer were here he would agree. But as an experienced man in law he was also an excellent 'compromiser' on contentious issues. This is a case of the need of the Trust to amend this part of their Constitution, but in the interim period advise their Insurance Company of this "hiccup" and seek their advice.

CAN WE HELP? – YES WE DID!!!

I'm sure Members will recall the request made in Rosabeam 2003 to help reunite Martin Browne (Burt) and older brothers Kenneth and Andrew Burt. In July 2001 we had received an enquiry from Kenneth Burt trying to trace his younger brother, Martin. Then in July 2003 we received an enquiry from Martin Browne (Burt) who whilst scrolling through the email directory on the website, came across the name Kenneth Burt and was pretty certain that this was his brother Kenneth.

It gives me immense pleasure to inform our members that ROSA has been instrumental in successfully reuniting the brothers at last.

Ken and Martin (right) finally met for the first time in 57 years, at the Royal Victoria Hotel, Hastings.



CAN WE HELP ANOTHER OLD SCHOLAR? – I'M SURE WE CAN!

Anne Meecham (nee Rodway 1965-68) asks about two of the photos on the website of the trip to Germany with Skipper Lewis in 1931. She thinks her father Cyril Rodway was on that trip along with Cyril Singer and Stan Cocks and she can remember Stan telling her all about it at either the 98 or 99 reunion. Her father died in 1962 and was at Reedham with Cyril and Stan and he is mentioned in The Home on the Hill (page 77) in the letter from H.E. Clarke in 36-37. She is almost certain that one of the young men is her father, but it could be wishful thinking as she has few photos of him. Is there anyone out there who might know?



Any memories at all of her father would be wonderful. Anne can be contacted by email at: meechamannie@aol.com or through our Secretary.

THE ROSA LOTTO

First Draw - 2004



2nd Prize £2000
Ian Southarden



4th Prize £50
Jim Eastabrook



1st Prize £500 Joy Davis



3rd Prize £100
Pamela Harbour



5th Prize £25
Tanya Roels

FOR YOUR BENEFIT
FOR ROSA'S BENEFIT
FOR THE REEDHAM TRUSTS BENEFIT