



## **GSPA AGM October 2023**

### **Chair Report**

The GSPA is a registered Charity (No 1153571) which is an association of parents and guardians of Gordon's students that works in partnership with Gordon's School to support and benefit all students through targeted enrichment activities and events.

We do this by:

- (1) Developing meaningful relationships between the staff, parents, guardians and the wider Gordon's community.
- (2) Organising social activities and providing facilities and equipment which support the school and enhance the overall experience for Gordon's students.

This year we have had a full programme of events including Quiz Night, Christmas Fair and Burns Night which generated a net income after expenses of around £8,500. These events are not only about fundraising but also about building a school community.

Funds are allocated in two ways:

- (1) Through a bids process – this year we granted over £19,650 towards various departmental bids and house requests.**

The bid process allows houses and departments to bid for funding from the GSPA and we as a committee review and discuss the merits of the bid with regards to the benefits it will bring our students. We have been looking this year at ways of involving the students more directly in being able to make bids to the GSPA.

- (2) Grants to each House/CCF/DofE/P&D – a total of £7,000 a year in grants.**

Grants allow Houses and departments to choose how best to spend the money themselves on the small ticket items without having to submit a bid. We have also decided that the grants given out should be increased in the coming year from £500 to £600 as there had not been an increase for a long time.

I took over as Chair at the AGM last year and was a member of the committee for a year before that so I am still learning the ropes and it has been a steep learning curve for me this year.

I am very grateful for the patience of the SLT and the school team as I find my way and for their continued assistance.

And of course I'd like to thank each and every member of the committee for their support. I have had the pleasure of working with an amazing committee and none of our achievements would be possible without their hard work, time, commitment and enthusiasm. It is important to point out that we are just a collection of parents who are willing to give up some of our busy schedule to help make a difference for the students.

## Meet the Committee

Name	Role	Responsibilities
Kathryn Iyer	Chair	Quiz Night
Mark Mosby	Vice Chair	Christmas Fair
Stephanie Legge	Treasurer	Whitehall / Menin Gate coaches
Ying Perrett	Secretary	Business Liaison
Angelina Bowden	Committee Member	Burns Night
Caroline Donaldson-Sinclair	Committee Member	Merchandise / Summer Event
Juliette Buis	Committee Member	Christmas Raffle
Pamela Mosby	Committee Member	Christmas Fair
Sharmini Balashankar	Committee Member	Bids / Try Booking / Emails
Viji (Vijayalakshmi) Avudiappan	Committee Member	2HU
Shivali Malkur	Committee Member	Summer Event
Tricia Bell	Committee Member	Fun Day / Bags 2 School

## What does a GSPA Committee Member do?

- Meet 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month as a committee.
- 9 Meetings throughout the year (July/August/April excluded)
- 10am to 12noon in the Stibbon Room
  - Regular updates from the SLT
  - Review, approve or reject bids from the houses and departments
  - Review current fund-raising events / activities and come up with new ideas
  - Plan new events via sub-committees
  - Some additional meetings and tasks are assigned
  - Review finances and liaise with school on expenditure

All committee jobs are broken down so that they are not onerous on any one individual and each event has a leader. We are all working parents who want to give back to the school and have fun together.

Obviously, we as a committee are only one part of the GSPA and it would be impossible for us to do everything all the time. So, I'd like to thank the parent volunteers who provide a much-needed support arm to help out on events to ensure that they run smoothly.

And thanks to those parents who support us by attending the events and buying the raffle tickets and sending the donations for the Christmas Fair!

## **Event description & funds raised 2022/2023:**

### **Quiz Night: - Income £2,875 & Profit £1,557**

A great evening of fun with quiz questions prepared by quiz master and maths teacher, Mr Eaden. The GSPA ran the bar and an amazing Chicken Curry Supper was provided by one of the parents (and our former GSPA Chair).

### **West End Christmas Fair at Gordons School: - Income £7,949 & Profit £5,624**

The GSPA's single largest fundraiser which takes so much organisation and planning to get right. The event includes stalls, live entertainment, raffle, games and seasonal food and is only made possible by the tremendous work, time and effort the team put in to make this a massive success. Special thanks to Mark and Pam Mosby for running this event.

### **Gordons Burns Night Supper: - Income £7,589 & Profit £1,367**

Gordon's Supper is a black tie & posh frock event we hold in January to celebrate Burns Night – Gordon's style. It is a fun evening of socialising, eating, drinking and Scottish dancing with a live band and with accompanying support from the Gordon's Pipes & Drums piping in guests and the haggis. This year was a sold out comeback event after two years of being cancelled due to Covid. This event is part of the legacy and Scottish heritage of the school and so whilst it is not a big fundraiser it is an important part of the school calendar.

### **Whitehall Coaches: Income £2,286 & Profit £980**

In the 1880's, to commemorate the death of General Gordon, Queen Victoria gave permission for Whitehall to be closed to traffic to allow the Gordon's Pipes & Drums and a marching contingent representing the school, to march to the General Gordon statue in Victoria Embankment. This tradition continues today and the GSPA provide coach travel to Whitehall for Parents and friends to watch this unique marching tradition.

### **Race Night: - cancelled**

We attempted a new event this year and planned a Race Night in March where the plan was to show pre-recorded horse races on a screen and parents would have a chance to bet on each race before it began. Unfortunately, we had a very low response and the event had to be cancelled. We would love to hear from parents about what events they would like us to put on.

### **Summer Dance/Party: - cancelled**

For the last week of the summer term a marquee is erected on the school front field and used for various evenings such as the student's Prom. For one evening the GSPA take over the marquee for our own event which has taken different forms over the years (black tie casino night / hog roast Hawaiian night). This year we had a very low response and the event had to be cancelled. We have taken lessons learnt from this and have been advertising this year's event date from the beginning of the year. If you have any ideas of what form this event should take or would like to help then we would love to hear from you.

### **Fun Day: - Cost £5,866**

Fun Day is not a fund-raising event and is funded by the GSPA; it's a family day held each summer for the students of Gordon's to have a fun time and let their hair down. We provide a BBQ for the students, Pimms tent for the adults, lots of games and inflatables and the students, siblings, staff, parents and GSPA members have a great time.

**Sales of Merchandise: - Income £2,010**

We sell various Gordon's branded merchandise through the school website, at events and at parades. This year we replenished stock and added new items including cufflinks, a new design umbrella and keyrings.

**Sales of 2HU: - Income £3,526**

We run a second hand uniform store which parents can donate uniform to and chose to have a proportion paid back to them when their items are sold or donate all profits to the GSPA. We had a change of policy this year and now only pay back a proportion on the high value items such as Canterbury sports kit and blazers. This means that we no longer need to make small bank transfers when we sell ties! This hasn't put parents off donating but has helped enormously with administration. Income has gone up from last year by £1,000 (prices have been raised and we have higher value items) and expenses have gone down.

**Bags to School: - Income £225**

We have continued to collect unwanted clothes etc once a year which always raises a few hundred pounds and helps parents to have a clear out.

All of these events will be coming up in 2023 / 2024 along with a new initiative that we will be offering. Each year the Pipes and Drums go on a coach trip to the Menin Gate in Belgium where they perform the Last Post Ceremony. This year the GSPA will be offering coaches for parents and family to accompany them on this trip.

**None of the events are possible without a motivated & committed committee and the support of the school and parents.**

**GSPA Committee Officer Vacancies**

We are currently a committee of 12 and we would very much like some more people to join us. There are no committee members stepping down this year but there are those looking to step down next year as their children leave Gordon's and are keen to pass on their roles during the year. If anyone has an interest in a particular role we would love to hear from you but you also don't need to take on a specific role to join the committee and help out generally.

**Close:**

I would like to close by thanking you all for attending,  
A personal thank you to Mr. Moss & Ms Carruthers and other members of the SLT, Sarah Byne and her awesome team, Paul and his amazing catering team and finally Paul Curley the Facilities team who all make this an amazing school.