

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

The eighth Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Monday 21st June 1976 at the Knights of St. Columba Club, 11 Lansdowne Rd

Chairman Professor Carus-Wilson.

APOLOGIES had been received from Mrs. J. Murray, Mrs. Pirie, Miss Santa Raymond, Councillor J. Winn, and Mr. C. Whitfield.

1) MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the seventh Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were approved by the meeting.

2) HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Hon. Treasurer reported that the balance in hand was £ 576.33, and that there was an increase from subscriptions of £ 83. The amount recovered from the Inland Revenue was £ 55.10. There were roughly 297 members. He thanked Mr. Notcutt for auditing the accounts. The Accounts were adopted by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer, Mr. H. F. A. Jackson who was resigning after the A.G.M., for his splendid work for the Association.

Mrs. Hilda Edwards had agreed to take over the office of Treasurer.

3) ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The meeting voted unanimously that the Chairman and Hon. Secretary should remain in office for another year.

Three members of the Committee were due to retire, but were eligible for re-election. Mr. Angus Stirling, however, felt unable to continue due to pressure of his own work. Dr. Collins also wished to resign for the same reason, though not due for retirement. There were therefore four vacant places on the Committee. A nomination proposing Mr. McWhirr had been received by the Hon. Secretary, and the Committee put forward the names of Messrs. T. Herring and C. Whitfield for re-election, and those of Mrs. Bingham and Mr. D. Simson for election. A vote was taken and the following were elected; Mrs. Bingham, T. Herring, D. Simson and C. Whitfield.

The Chairman proposed that Mr. Angus Stirling, who was a founder member and the first Chairman of the Association, should be elected Honorary Vice-President. There was a unanimous vote in favour.

4) AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had put forward an Amendment to the Constitution, and this had been circulated with the minutes.

In place of "The Officers of the Society shall consist of; Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting" read "The Officers of the Society shall consist of; Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. The Chairman shall be elected for a period of three years, and shall not be eligible for re-election during the ensuing three year period. The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting."

The amendment was put to the meeting and carried.

5) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Committee has continued to meet regularly each month and its activities have been reported, broadly in the two "Newsletters" issued in October and April. It has been greatly encouraged by the growing interest shown by the Borough Council and its officers in the whole question of Conservation and what it means, or should mean, in Conservation Areas.

This growing interest had borne fruit in the issue, in draft form, of the Borough's first study of a particular Conservation Area, and it is gratifying to note that for this first study it has chosen the Ladbroke Area, recently designated by the Department of the Environment as a Conservation Area of "Outstanding Architectural and Historic Interest". The study was the subject of discussion at a lively meeting of the Association attended by the principal Borough officers concerned. The Association has warmly welcomed the readiness of the Borough to collaborate in devising schemes to preserve and enhance the special features which make this neighbourhood so particularly attractive.

The Borough's Report on the Ladbroke Area owes much to the help and advice of members of the Association's committee who cooperated closely with the Borough's officers during its preparation. The Committee as a whole has given much thought to possible schemes of environmental enhancement which might attract an outside grant. Among other possible schemes it has considered a) the restoration of railings, especially round communal gardens, which in so many places have been enclosed by unsuitable materials such as chicken wire, following the loss of the original railings in the last war; b) the replacement of existing street lamps in the quieter residential streets by lamps more in keeping with the architecture of the district - possibly after an experiment in certain streets with lamps of a traditional design which are now on the market in England and abroad; c) the improvement of street furniture, much of which is at present of poor design; d) the restoration of stucco features that have perished or been destroyed (the pamphlet on the restoration of stucco will, it is hoped be shortly completed); and e) the planting of trees to replace the magnificent elms which have been such a characteristic feature of the Ladbroke landscape: almost all of them will have fallen a victim to Dutch Elm disease by the end of this season. Members have been asked to let the Committee know of any other schemes which they would like to be considered.

On the preservation, rather than the enhancement, of the area's amenities, two particular problems have been of special concern recently. One is the large number of empty houses whose fabric is steadily deteriorating, some being occupied by squatters. The other is the gradual encroachment on garden space by the parking of cars, not only in the front but also in back gardens. The Borough's own Report has suggested certain criteria which should determine the extent to which, and the manner in which parking in front gardens should be permitted, and further discussions are on the way concerning back gardens.

The film "Europa Nostra" was shown to the Association very shortly after its European premiere in Amsterdam. This vividly illustrates the growing concern throughout Europe for preventing the ruin of Europe's historic towns by ill conceived development. It was presented by one of the Association's members, Mr. Michael Middleton, Secretary-General of the United Kingdom Council of European Architectural Heritage Year, who had taken an active part in the making of it.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by a Wine and Cheese party. Permission had been obtained for the use of the adjoining gardens, the weather was fine, and members and guests spent an enjoyable evening.

THE LADBROKE ASSOCIATION

Receipts and Payments for the Year to 31st March 1977

1975/6

Cash at Bank and in Hand
1st April 1976

Deposit Account 546.48
Current Account 24.98
Petty Cash 4.87

413 ----- 576.33

291 Subscriptions received 331.35

34 Deposit Acc. Interest 44.71

55 Income Tax Recovered 101.81

793 £ 1054.20 -----

1975/76

71 Postage, Stationery and Sundries 156.28

81 Newsletter 57.40

26 Annual General Meeting (net cost) 2.00

24 Spring Meeting 9.72

Subscriptions and Donations

5 Kensington Society 5.25

Royal Borough of K and C 5.00

5 K.S.C. Club 5.00

Elgin and Blenheim Gardens Committee 50.00

----- 65.25

5 Bank Charges 15.98

Cash at Bank 31st March 77.

Deposit Account 661.61

Current Account 91.76

Petty Cash (5.80)
(overdrawn)

576 ----- 747.57

793 £ 1054.20 -----

I have examined the above Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 1977 with the books and records of the Ladbroke Association and certify that it is properly drawn up in accordance therewith

36 Clarendon Road
London W.11.
20th May 1977

E.V. NOTCUTT
Chartered Accountant