PRESENT:- Mr. Peter Watson - Hon. President - in the chair
Mr. B. Aylward - Medical Director
Mr. Tim ffytche - Hon. Committee Member
Miss Wendy Franks - Executive Secretary
Mr. John Lee - Hon. Committee Member
Mr. Peter K. Leaver - Hon. Committee Member
Mr. Richard Keeler - Hon. Committee Member/ Hospital Archivist
Mr. Paul Sullivan - Committee Member
Mr. Stephen King - Treasurer
Miss Ann McIntyre - Committee Member
Mrs. Brenda M. Aveyard - In attendance.

1. APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from the following Members of the Management Committee:- Mr. Anthony Atkinson, Mr. Ian Balmer, Mr. Dan Ehrlich, Dr. Margaret Leigh.

2. MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH JUNE 2007
The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Museum/Exhibition Centre
The president reported that we were offered space in the current boardroom to develop a museum/exhibition centre for patients to view and staff education. He stated there had been frustration about progress and the reason for this was given later by the Medical Director in his report.

(ii) Royal College of Ophthalmologists’ 20th Anniversary
The Moorfields Alumni Association has arranged a table for the Anniversary Ball/Dinner and Members were asked to contact Miss Wendy Franks, Executive Secretary if they wished to join fellow Alumni for the celebration.
(iii) **Social/Sports Events**
The Hon. President reported that the Summer Reunion at Cambridge in 2007 was a great success and he thanked Mr. Stephen King for his marvellous organ recital. All attendees enjoyed the occasion. We hope to arrange another Reunion this year and make it an annual event.

The Reunion will be arranged to take place on Friday 5th September 2008 at the end of the Cambridge Symposium, (Venue: Queens’ College) to be confirmed at a later date.

(iv) **Insignia**
Miss Ann McIntyre gave an excellent presentation on designs and colours for the Alumni Association ties. There was a show of hand to approve the various designs but there was no clear majority for any particular design. It was agreed that Ann would make a decision with the help of the MAA Committee.

The President thanked Ann for the enormous amount of hard work she had put into this project.

(v) **Sale of Moorfields History Books**
A recommendation given by the President to Members of the Alumni Association that the Moorfields History books were an excellent historical record as well as an extremely good read and he urged Members that had not bought them to do so. Copies of Volumes I, II and III are available from Ms. Brenda M. Aveyard (4th Floor, Moorfields Eye Hospital). All money received for purchase of history books is credited to the MAA funds.

(vi) **Obituary**
In his closing address the Hon. President announced the death of Prof. B. Jay, Prof. I. McDonald, Mr. D. Ainslie, Mr. J. Winstanley and Miss J. Silver. A minute’s silence was held.

4. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Mr. Stephen King presented the accounts. He announced that the figures would be on the website shortly. He reported a healthy income from subscriptions and for the sale of Mr. Peter Leaver’s Volume III History Book. There was a deduction of £5,842.20 spent on architect’s fees for the design of the museum/exhibition centre.

Mr. King pointed that the Alumni Association did not benefit from charitable status and does not come under the aegis of the Special Trustees. Any donations or subscription fees are not subject to Gift Aid relief. Help for the planning cost of the museum/exhibition centre was sought from the Special Trustees but the request was turned down. The reason given was that emphasis this year was on research.
In his closing remarks, Mr. King told Members that in view of the educational activities of the Special Trustees it would be reasonable for the MAA educational activities to come under the umbrella of the Special Trustees, which would enable the Association to have charitable status for donations.

When the Chairman asked if there were any questions, Mr. Peter Leaver pointed out that the Special Trustees had supported the production of the Volume III Moorfields’ History Book.

From the floor Miss Beaconsfield said that she failed to see how a museum would not be educational.

The Treasurer concluded his report by stating that hopefully the Alumni Association might try persuading the Special Trustees in the future to show more support for the Association’s educational aims.

5. **HON. PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Watson stated that his principle report was one of frustration about the progress of the museum/exhibition centre. Originally the Association had been offered the old front hall entrance as a museum/exhibition centre but this subsequently had been allocated to the Friends of Moorfields.

Prior to June the MAA was offered the boardroom. On that basis Mr. Jasper Jacob, a well-known museum architect, was asked to produce a plan for the space and did so. This incurred a cost to the Alumni Association of £5,842.20, as outlined above in the Treasurer’s report.

The Hon. President told Members he had approached the City on behalf of the MAA and secured a provisional donation towards the cost of the museum/exhibition centre but in view of recent developments and lack of support from the Special Trustees the request for funds had been withdrawn.

It does look as though the boardroom will be vacated but the plans for the museum/exhibition space will have to be scaled back.

The Medical Director in his report explained the reason for this planning blight.

Mr. Richard Keeler the Hospital Archivist and Mr. Peter Leaver are working very hard sorting out the archives that are presently stored in the Institute of Ophthalmology and we are hoping with the new plans for developing the hospital there will be a museum/exhibition centre in due course.
The Hon. President asked Members to get in touch if they had any photographs or artefacts that might be of interest for displaying the history of the Hospital.

He also reported that the website had been updated and members would be alerted by e-mail as and when any new developments were posted on it.

5. **MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Bill Aylward announced the resignation of Mr. Ian Balmer, Chief Executive of Moorfields and wished him every success in his new post at the RSM.

Mr. John Pelly is to take over as Chief Executive at Moorfields. The Hospital is fortunate to have the benefit of his experience. He spearheaded the merger of St. Thomas’ and Guy’s Hospitals and more recently had been Chief Executive at Woolwich Hospital.

The Medical Director also announced the retirement of Mr. Ian Knott who will be leaving Moorfields at the end of February 2008 and praised him for having kept the Hospital budget in surplus throughout his period of office.

Mr. Ian Hollows, previously a non-executive director on the Board, takes over as Finance Director when Mr. Knott leaves this position.

The retirement of the Chairman of the Hospital, Sir Thomas Boyd Carpenter was also announced and the Medical Director thanked him for spearheading our application to become a Foundation Trust and wished him well for the future.

Mr. Rudy Markham takes over as Chairman of the Hospital. Mr. Markham has a background of Chief Finance Officer at Unilever.

These gentlemen will take up their new positions on the 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2008.

Mr. Declan Flanagan has already taken up his new position as Associate Medical Director.

Mr. Aylward reported that Moorfields at Bedford the Trust’s newest outreach site would be officially opened on the 29\textsuperscript{th} of January 2008. He welcomed Mr. Rupert Bourne and Miss Melanie Hingorani on to the Consultant Staff.

He also reported on the opening of the new Richard Desmond International Children’s Eye Centre earlier in the year and told Alumni Members how delighted and lucky we were to get Her Majesty The Queen to officially open the International Children’s Eye Centre for us.
Despite the opening of this new children’s hospital Moorfields is still desperately short of space. The cost of building a new hospital is likely to be in excess of £30M and to do this it will need some lateral thinking.

One proposal was to sell the site to a developer, keep the façade and then to build upwards. The Children’s Hospital was capped at six floors but there is currently a 26-storey block being built on the opposite side of City Road and high-rise development is now permitted in this area. A proposal received from a developer would be to build a multi-storey hospital on part of the site and a developer for commercial property could then use the remainder of the site. The timescale for this is hopefully quite short.

Having reported on this future plan Mr. Aylward brought us back to the question of the museum/exhibition centre and planning blight. It would be difficult to get the Special Trustees to fund something that is going to be knocked down in two years’ time. He assured Members of the Moorfields Alumni Association that space would be made available in the new Hospital development for a museum/exhibition centre, as it was an extremely exciting and important project.

Before concluding his report the Medical Director gave an amusing presentation on the new dress code for clinicians when examining patients.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss and Mr. Peter Watson closed the MAA AGM after announcing the following diary dates.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Management Committee Meeting - 12th June 2008
Summer Reunion - 5th September 2008
MAA Annual General Meeting - 30th January 2009

WAF/BMA/February 2008