

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE
Staff Common Room
AGM
MINUTES

FRIDAY 27th May 2016, 5.30pm
The Common Room, Keele Hall

01/16 Apologies for Absence: Marilyn Andrews, Ruth Eagle, John Easom, Peter Grannell, Lynne Harris (Secretary), Jacqui Kinsey, Rick Marshall, Hazel Russell, Janet Smith, James Steeley.

Present : Anna Truman (in the Chair), Stephen Clifford (Minute Secretary) and 23 other Members.

02/16 The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting of 27th May 2015 were **agreed** as a correct record.

03/16 Matters Arising on the Minutes.
None other than those appearing elsewhere on the agenda.

04/16 Chairman's Reports
The Chairman, of the SCR Committee, Anna Truman, spoke to a written report as follows:

Firstly I'd like to welcome and thank you all for your support at this meeting today.

It is important for there to be a staff organisation (ie the SCR) that is independent and outside of the more formal, corporate structure of the University. The SCR is currently in very good shape; it is on an upward trajectory and is attracting the involvement of more and more current staff. In particular it benefits new staff members who wish to create new associations, integrating them into the University Community.

We have seen a wonderful period of growth over the last couple years and especially this year where our annual events have been very successful. The SCR has been actively engaged in bringing staff together through its busy events programme which includes the New Staff Buffet, chess tournament, several wine tastings, a whisky tasting, and the Burns Night Supper. This year has also seen the introduction of new events and I would like to thank the Social Secretary John Butcher as well as the committee for their hard work and commitment in organising these activities. Due to John's work this year, we also had a Brewery Tour at Joules where we got to pour our own pints and a second is scheduled for June, the Clive Gardens private tour, and a wine tasting that is also coming up in two weeks' time with James Gillespie of Touchstone Wines. We have also hosted a number of events for the Classical Association and supported various Keele talks and activities.

Our most successful endeavour has been the introduction of Friday night drinks in the SCR Bar. This was an initiative by Adam Stanton, John Butcher, and Lynne Harris and I'd like to thank them for all the work they have put into running these evenings as volunteers behind the bar. Other committee members have also supported the evenings and it has grown as a social evening for members and guests. These nights have served to reinvigorate links between our retired staff members and current ones, forging new relationships and renewing established ones.

Through all this the SCR raises the quality of life of its members and their guests and indirectly enhances the standing of the University. We are a long standing contributor to the university's unique community encompassed in the Keele Vision. The University's support of the SCR speaks to Keele's aim to support and develop our staff in a culture of innovation in education and research and building key research partnerships within academia and beyond. Truly we are a community of scholars and this

not only includes the academic staff but those who, like me, are committed to the vision of the university as a member of the support and professional staff.

We now consider the future of the SCR within the changing University environment both here at Keele and within the 'sector'. As Keele continues to define itself in the 21st century we too must strive to set ourselves apart and adapt to this changing world while still preserving our traditions and principles. We must use our collective history, knowledge, and perspective to shape the SCR's future at Keele.

Finally I'd like to once again thank the committee and the membership for their support this year. It has been a pleasure to represent you as the SCR Chair and although I will be leaving Keele for a new adventure I hope to keep close ties with you and with the great SCR community.

05/16 Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2014-2015. For a statement of the account see the minute book. Stephen Clifford reported that a loss of £46 would have been a small surplus but for final expenditure last year on newspapers, which as reported at the previous AGM had been discontinued as the major cause of four figure losses the previous year. The figures were much healthier than recent years and none of the Bar figures reported yet reflected the effect of Friday evening opening in the present year, which would show much higher turnover in the next accounts. In these, it had been agreed to show Tasting expenditure and income separately, to show the true profit margin on ordinary trading, which was artificially lowered by including tasting sales in the general Bar heading. The proposal that the accounts, as amended, be accepted was **carried** unanimously.

06/16 Election of Committee for 2016/2017

The motion that the Committee's nominations for the SCR Committee be accepted *en bloc* was **carried** unanimously, with the addition of 3 extra members, nominated from the floor:

President	No nomination this year
Chairman	Mr Adam Stanton (Computing)
Secretary	Dr Lynne Harris (Life Sciences)
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Assistant Secretaries:	
Room Bookings	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Social	Dr John Butcher (Life Sciences)
Membership	Miss Margaret Bird (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Treasures	Dr Philip Kivell (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Games	Mr Chris Wain (Planning & Academic Administration)
Rambles	Dr Terry O'Neill (Associate Member)
Wine Stewards	Dr David Cohen (Retired Member) Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR) Mr Adam Stanton (Computing)
Members	Dr Chris Adams (Life Sciences) Professor Marilyn Andrews (past President) Dr Rachel Bright (Humanities – History) Professor James Elder (past President) Ms Ella Tennant (Lang Learning Unit) Mrs Anna Truman (Music)

07/16 2016/17 "A way forward for the Staff Common Room"

The University's proposal to transfer the Common Room, Breakfast Room, and SCR Bar oversight to Keele Hall Events Team had been circulated by email by Anna Truman, and was tabled.

Anna Truman summarized the background to this proposal, which originated from the University Executive Committee (UEC) not the SCR Committee. Although major changes in the relationship between the SCR and University, earlier in the process they had been even more concerning, including giving up the Bar, were no longer in question. There were a number of questions on the legal status of the SCR's occupation of the rooms, where our charging the University rent to use rooms it owned was

the main difficulty in justifying continuation without change. David Cohen explained how he had regarded the SCR's rights when he was Registrar, and the longstanding nature of the arrangement from the University's very beginning. Whether or not an agreement was reached, he felt we should deplore the proposed changes, and seek to maintain for instance the right to self-catering for our New Staff buffet.

There was a suggestion that, although some Committee members had expressed relief that we would retain management of our Bar, the current proposal reflected the real wishes of the UEC from the first, with the others having been bargaining points. There was considerable debate on aspects of the proposal, in particular the catering stipulations and the reasons behind these. It was hoped by all that the proposal could be modified further to reflect more of the current practice and service available to members.

It was suggested that the SCR might register as a Charity, as the Student's Union and KPA had done, but it was feared this could be both time consuming and expensive.

It was **resolved** that UEC be informed that the proposal as currently constituted seemed to the AGM to be a deplorable treatment of such a long standing club in the life of the University, and to call for more clarity, particularly on the key issues raised in the meeting, before any final decision was taken. It was agreed that the Committee would take the discussions forward on this basis.

08/16 Any Other Business

- (a) The proposal that we show our appreciation for all Anna had done as Chair and wish her well in her new life role was greeted with acclaim.
- (b) Ella Tennant asked why the scheduled tasting was to incur a charge, and hoped that the traditional free tastings would not cease to be offered. It was explained John Butcher and Peter Lawrence had booked this as a Social Event, and although it had meant no free tasting could now take place this summer, it was intended to book one for September. Members were encouraged to book for the forthcoming event with John Butcher.
- (c) John also invited members to book for the Joules Brewery Visit the following week.

**09/16 The Date & Time of the Next Annual General Meeting were agreed as:
WEDNESDAY 24th MAY 2017, 5.15 p.m.**

The meeting finished at 6.35 pm.

Stephen Clifford
Minute Secretary to the AGM, 8.6.16

<http://www.keeleocr.org/agm15min.pdf>