

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE
Staff Common Room

AGM

MINUTES

**Agreed by Correspondence August 2020, no objections being received
(No Meeting possible because of Government Covid 19 restrictions)**

01/20 The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting 24th May 2019 were agreed as a correct record

02/20 Chairman's Report – circulated by covering email

Clearly, it has been a strange year and very difficult for some of us. The Staff Common Room is unlikely to be at the top of many people's priorities and indeed, given COVID-19, our activities have entirely paused. Or, almost entirely... a stalwart group of SCR Friday Night Bar goers did manage to arrange a fair number of online, Friday night drinking sessions. These were actually an incredibly welcome relief to the week's isolation!

Before COVID, we had some really successful events. It started with a very busy and by all accounts, lively, summer party on the lawns of Keele Hall. Bottlecraft came and wowed us with their beer selection, Jim Gillespie did not disappoint with his whisky and this was dutifully dispatched at Burns night. Burns night again was great, with some really entertaining performances (the always excellent Tam O'Shanter) and a lovely speech by Angela Jackson. I think our last event was Pierre Hourlier's Claret tasting on 5th March 2020. We did choose our own label red here. However, in the circumstances, this has not yet been ordered.

We are in a pretty good position financially due to Friday night openings which did run for 2/3 of the normal year's program, and are keen to use this position to reinvest in members. We are still planning to update the bar and, once we can return, this will hopefully be an excellent space for people to meet. If we have learned anything over the past couple of months, it is that technology has not quite found a way to replicate the pub.

Obviously, SCR activities for the time being are going to be reduced. For the moment we are advised that walk in lunches will not be possible until at least the University's next Category of precautions is reached, and Keele Hall will not re-open for seated meals until October at the earliest. I would say though that we are here as a community and if anyone needs assistance or company then reaching out to the membership could be a good way to find it. We will be ready to initiate our activities as soon as we can and hopefully we can maintain the SCR as a place for staff to meet, drink and relax.

I wish everyone all the best and look forward to resuming activities in the future.

03/20 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported in writing that: The Accounts for 2018/19 show a healthy surplus of £1488 – less than the previous year, but that had allowed us to invest in repairs and improvements in the bar during 2018/19. We spent over £1000 on new lighting and the re-covering of the Bar chairs.

Bar revenue was again very good, nearly in 5 figures for the first time for years, nearly half of this from Friday night Bar sales when, thanks to voluntary labour by members, we have no staff costs. The remainder came from lunchtime drinks sales, drinks at our social events, and off sales. Tastings, where there is no profit margin, are now treated separately from Bar trading in the Accounts.

As the Chairman makes clear elsewhere, naturally our Accounts for 2019/20 will be hit by the suspension of events and bar trading in March, but we were two thirds of the way through our financial year then and most of the way through evening opening, so that with £2.6k in evening sales, and the results of our Lunchtime and Burns Night sales, those Accounts should show a scaled down but similar outturn.

I hope Members will feel able to approve these Accounts in the absence of a meeting. I am of course happy to respond to any questions by email.

The Accounts for 2018-2019 were therefore approved and adopted.

Because of the inhibitions on mounting a programme of events in 2020/2021, the Committee proposed carrying forward subscriptions paid for the year now ending until at least the end of January, and this was agreed.

04/20 Election of Committee for 2020/2021

The Committee nominated the following for re-appointment, which were agreed; the Committee might co-opt further members during the year.

President	
Chairman	Dr Chris Adams (Life Sciences)
Secretary	<i>Vacancy – volunteers welcome, contact the Chairman</i>
Treasurer	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Honourable Keeper of the Bar	Dr Nick Wright (Astrophysics)
Social	Dr Rebecca Bowler (English)
Membership	Miss Margaret Bird (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Communications	Professor Marilyn Andrews (Past President)
Treasures	Dr David Ballantyne (American Studies)
Games	Mr Chris Wain (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Rambles	Dr David Ballantyne (American Studies) Dr Rebecca Bowler (English)
Hon. Wine Stewards	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR) Dr John Butcher (Life Sciences)
Members	Dr Terry O'Neill (Associate Member) Ms Ella Tennant (Language Centre) Dr Rachel Bright (History) Dr Adam Stanton (Computing and Mathematics)

05/20 The Date & Time of Next Annual General Meeting were agreed as: FRIDAY 28th MAY 2021, 5.30 p.m.

<http://www.keelescr.org/agm19min.pdf>