

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE
Staff Common Room
AGM
MINUTES
FRIDAY 23rd July 2021, 5.30pm
University Common Room, Keele Hall & on Microsoft teams

01/21 Apologies for Absence: Marilyn Andrews, Caroline Baggaley, Margaret Bird, Jane Boylan, Rachel Bright, Peggy Chaplin, Patrick Connell, Mark Davys, Ted Evans, Peter Grannell, Sue Hunter, Peter Lawrence, Rick Marshall, Rachel Naylor, Terry O'Neill, Fiona Polack, Ella Tennant, Jacki Tickle, Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser, Nick Wright, Daniel Wyatt.

Present: Chris Adams (Chair), Stephen Clifford (Treasurer), Becky Bowler, Bev Newton (in person); David Ballantyne, John Butcher, Stas Glazewski, Chris Wain (online).

02/21 The **Minutes** of the virtual Annual General Meeting of Summer 2020 were **agreed** as a correct record.

03/21 Matters Arising on the Minutes.

There were none other than those appearing on the Agenda.

04/21 Chairman's Report

Chris Adams reported that: After an entire year affected by COVID-19, our activities were substantially reduced. However, there were a few virtual events which still took place. The Classics Association arranged a few online talks, which were attended by some of our members. A few of us also continued the virtual Friday SCR bar sessions, which were always a welcome treat. The committee has also met a number of times to discuss re-opening and starting up again with a range of events. Despite waiving fees, we broke even this year as we had minimal outgoings and were able to sell off some bar stock, which will be expanded upon by the treasurer, but is a good financial situation heading into the next academic year. We hope primarily to invest this in the bar space.

Whilst cautiously optimistic, we also have to be realistic. We are still in a moment of uncertainty. England has largely unlocked but Keele is more cautious in its approach. With cases rising, this isn't such a surprise, but will affect what we can offer in the coming months. With the reduced activity, as you know, we waived fee collection last year. If we can start activities again, we will look to reinstate fee collection. However, there will be a different feel here as finance will not process fees through payroll any more. Some members already pay through standing order so won't be affected but we will need to find an alternative for existing staff. So there are some challenges to keep maintaining the SCR as a space for

people to meet and relax (with this quite reliant on in person socialising), offering simple membership options and payment plans for the members and providing value for money. As it stands, we do hope to open the bar again for the start of term and resume some of our regular activities – for example wine tastings, brewery tours and the new staff buffet (or substitute buffet). Prior to that, we also hope to hold an SCR summer party on the lawns of Keele Hall. Any old stock in the bar will be up for heavily discounted prices or given away for free. There is still a bit of negotiation to get that one through though! Also, we believe we have a solution for payment involving paypal but more information on this will be provided in the Autumn.

All our committee members have agreed to stay on and I thank them for this and their input this year as we maintain a little bit of protocol. We have a couple of new staff looking to join the committee which is great. There may be a bumpy restart but hopefully we can recruit and retain members to start the new academic year, put on some fun events and keep the SCR going.

05/21 Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2019-2020. The 2019-20 accounts were almost a year old, because of Covid. For a statement of the account, see the minute book. Stephen Clifford reported that the year under review was basically a scaled down version of a normal one, except that when we suspended operations we had had most of the Friday night opening weeks, with only a few to come in the summer, while we incurred no wage costs at lunchtime after March, during much of which there is normally no Friday income to offset the costs. This led to the Bar profit margins actually being higher than the year before, on a lower turnover. Fortunately our stock levels were much lower at Lockdown than in July 2019, and we had not yet ordered extra in for summer opening. This meant we had less out of date stock to write off – up to the present date mainly beer, crisps and biscuits, with soft drinks also now (July 2021) going out of date.

The proposal that the accounts be agreed and adopted was **carried** unanimously.

Stephen also reported that the current position, nearly at the end of the 2020-21 financial year, was that, as Chris had said, we had more or less broken even, other than having to write off some stock. Our bank accounts were at approximately the same level they had been a year before. As Chris had also said University Payroll would not be collecting subscriptions from salaried members in future, but we had set up a business PayPal account, as well as a standing order facility, for the resumption of subscriptions in October 2021. Details would be circulated to members by that date.

06/21 Election of Committee for 2021/2022

Chris reported that Stephen was willing, on a strictly short term basis for the coming year, to take office if the meeting wished, as Secretary & Treasurer, since he had been doing this throughout lockdown. With that addition, he proposed the Committee's nominations for the SCR Committee *en bloc*. There being no other nominations, this was **carried** unanimously:

President	No nomination this year
Chairman	Dr Chris Adams (Life Sciences)
Secretary & Treasurer	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Honourable Keeper of the Bar	Dr Nick Wright (Astrophysics)
Hon. Wine Stewards	(Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR) (Dr John Butcher (Associate Member, Aston University))
Assistant Secretaries:	
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))
Members	Dr Rachel Bright (History) Dr Terry O'Neill (Associate Member) Dr Adam Stanton (Computing and Mathematics) Ms Ella Tennant (Language Centre) Dr Jacki Tickle (Life Sciences) Dr Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser (Life Sciences)

07/21 Any Other Business

There was none.

**08/21 The Date & Time of the Next Annual General Meeting were agreed as:
Friday, 27th May 2022, 5.30 p.m.**

Stephen Clifford, Minute Secretary to the AGM

<http://www.keeleocr.org/agm20min.pdf>