

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE
Staff Common Room
AGM
MINUTES
FRIDAY 27th May 2022, 5.30pm
SCR Bar, Keele Hall & on Microsoft Teams

01/22 Apologies for Absence: Caroline Baggaley, David Ballantyne, Ted Evans, Peter Grannell, Bev Newton, John Rogers.

Present: Chris Adams (Chair), Stephen Clifford (Secretary/Treasurer), Marilyn Andrews, Margaret Bird, Becky Bowler, John Butcher, Terry O'Neill, Todd O'Neill, Gordon Pearson (in person); Rachel Bright, Adam Stanton, Jacki Tickle, Chris Wain, Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser, Nick Wright (online).

02/22 The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting of 23rd July 2023 were **agreed** as a correct record.

03/22 Matters Arising on the Minutes.

There were none.

04/22 Chairman's Report

Chris Adams reported that sadly David Cohen, our Wine Steward Emeritus, had died on 25th April, aged 88. He had served on the Committee for well over 50 years. Stephen added that there would be a Memorial service on campus on or about 16th September.

Chris continued "It has been another year of unrest, which is much the same for institutions across the country. New challenges have emerged post-lock downs, including a more flexible approach to working meaning less people are on campus at any one time and the lingering uncertainty of any gatherings. Further, as reported last year we knew we were going to need to change the way we collect membership subs, as finance moved away from collecting through pay-roll.

To start then, I would like to thank the members who embraced the new sub system and signed up through paypal and also everyone who started or maintained their standing orders. The membership and subs allow us to re-invest in the SCR and to keep the society going. We hope to use some of these subs to update the bar, possibly update the wine cellar and get lunch service back off the ground. Members also make the SCR what it is – a community – so thank you for the continuing support.

There have been plenty of positives this year with many events organised including wine tastings and CA lectures, organised by Stephen, thank you Stephen, and recently the garden visit organised by John, many thanks for that. Ian has ran some excellent quizzes (although we could do with higher attendance) and thank you Marta for organising those. The bar openings have been more sporadic than we would have liked, but there have been some incredibly well attended bar nights. Last Friday we had around 30 people and took over £150 on the card reader. Along with paypal, the SCR really has moved into the digital age. But again, thank you everyone who has volunteered

on the bar, Nick for organising our evenings, and a special mention to Marilyn and Todd who seem to have stocked up and opened a lot recently!

There are some challenges too. We did take a drop in membership with the switch to paypal. We also decided along with Keele Hall to suspend lunch service. This was due to us both losing money (and perhaps the realisation that the lunch service wasn't quite where it was previously). We also had to cancel the new starters buffet and Burns night. These are both normally great events for different reasons, so that was very disappointing.

As a committee our aim now is to restart a recruitment drive in the new semester, starting with the new starters buffet. We aim to have events in place (brewery tour, quiz nights, wine tasting, garden visits) to advertise and run. The bar will re-open regularly. I want to thank all the committee for their hard work, engaging in hybrid committee meetings, volunteering on the bar and generally keeping things active. On that regard, there will be a few new names in committee positions and I thank Nick for his superb duty as Keeper of the Bar and Runner of Cocktail Nights – if anyone wants to volunteer that position is open, although will be rotated around committee for now.

I'm also stepping down. It has been an honour to be Chair of the SCR to see some great events and some great bar nights. I've worked with some excellent people also and have to thank the committee again for their support. Special mention I think here for Stephen who has often prompted me with meeting reminders and rules...So, thank you and now I will hand over to Becky Bowler who will do a great job I am sure.

And let's hope the SCR continues, keeps modernising, but keeps its core values of creating a social space for staff to meet and relax.

05/22 Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2020-2021. For Statment of Accounts, see Minute Book. Stephen reported that, although, as we had heard in our regular Committee updates, we had broken even on cash figures, the year showed a loss because of the need to write off nearly £900 worth of stock after the Pandemic. There was really very little else to say about a year when we were unable to carry on any activities, and most subscriptions were waived accordingly.

When the Committee considered these figures it uncovered an anomaly in the creditors and debtors figures – described by our accountants as money owing from Keele University, and the creditors figure bar the accountancy fee being money owing to Keele University, leaving us owing Keele a net £439. But we did not believe there were any debts to or from the University, which had waived the only charges due in the year. Birkins told us these figures had not changed since last year, so that we wondered whether they were a hangover from the days of the previous accountants which should be written out in the next examination, which they told us they can do. (Probably these came to light only because this was a year with so few transactions recorded.)

Accordingly the Accounts were **recommended** for approval by the AGM, subject to eventual rectification of the anomaly identified for investigation in the debtors and creditors figures. This was **agreed** by the meeting, and Stephen was thanked for his work on the SCR's finances.

06/22 Election of Committee for 2022/2023

Chris proposed the Committee's nominations for the SCR Committee *en bloc*. There being no other nominations, this was **carried** unanimously, with power to the Committee to co-opt during the year:

President	No nomination this year
Chairman	Dr Becky Bowler (English)
Secretary & Treasurer	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Honourable Keeper of the Bar	
Hon. Wine Stewards	(Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR) (Dr John Butcher (Associate Member, Aston University))
Assistant Secretaries:	
Social	Dr Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser (Life Sciences)
Membership	Miss Margaret Bird (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Games	Mr Chris Wain (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Treasures	Dr David Ballantyne (American Studies)
Rambles	Dr David Ballantyne (American Studies)
Members	Dr Chris Adams (Life Sciences) Professor Marilyn Andrews (Past President) Dr Rachel Bright (History) Dr Adam Stanton (Associate Member, Aston University) Dr Jacki Tickle (Associate Member, Aston University) Dr Nick Wright (Astrophysics)

07/22 Any Other Business

- (a) Becky stressed that it was important to be proactive in the next semester to recruit additional members, following our loss of numbers with the end of subscription collection through payroll. We must try and sign up people at the New staff Buffet and on Bar evenings.
- (b) Becky was hoping to arrange a Lawn Party in mid-June, possibly on 17th June subject to other bookings, while a Cocktail Night was planned around the end of Examination Boards.

08/22 The Date & Time of the Next Annual General Meeting were agreed as: Friday, 26th May 2023, 5.30 p.m.

The meeting ended at 5.57 p.m.

Stephen Clifford, Secretary

<http://www.keeleocr.org/agm21min.pdf>