

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE
Staff Common Room
AGM
MINUTES
FRIDAY 2nd JUNE 2023, 5.30pm
SCR Bar, Keele Hall

01/23 Apologies for Absence: Chris Adams, David Ballantyne, Margaret Bird, John Butcher, Peter Crome, Ted Evans, Peter Grannell, Chris Murphy, Adam Stanton, Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser

Present: Chris Adams (Chair), Stephen Clifford (Secretary/Treasurer), Rachel Bright, Aidan Collins, Niall Hammond, Sarah Hammond, Sally King, Jon Parker, Julius Sim, Chris Wain.

02/23 The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting of 27th May 2022 were **agreed** as a correct record.

03/23 Matters Arising on the Minutes.

A number of members had been co-opted to the Committee during the year, all now standing for election.

04/23 Chairman's Report

Becky Bowler reported that "It's been a busy year for the SCR, in many ways. In terms of the bar, the year began quietly, with only a few people in for a couple of nights in the autumn semester. About midway through the semester I began sending out regular reminder emails to members that the bar was open, and suddenly the bar became extremely busy every Friday. It's busier now, and I think we have a greater turnover of stock, than it ever has been since I started at Keele in 2016. We've had some great events: the new starter's buffet and the Festive Lunch; Burns' Night; wine tasting with Pierre; trip to Titanic Brewery. Thank you especially to Marta for all the work towards Burns' Night – and to Margaret for helping – usually, of course, she does all of this work herself, and it is a lot of work! Thank you to Stephen for organising the wine tasting and Chris Adams for organising the brewery trip. All of these events were wonderfully successful and we have more planned for next year. I think we can say we're now over our Covid slump, at least in terms of the bar and one-off events.

There have been a few challenges. Because our old alcoholic drinks' supplier, Booker's, won't now deliver in smaller quantities and irregularly, members have been volunteering to do a big shop in Morrisons and bring it back to the bar every couple of weeks. Thank you to Marilyn and Todd, Chris Adams, Julius Sim, and especially to Niall Hammond (who has done most of this work!) for

doing these runs. I'm delighted to say that Niall has agreed to take up the Keeper of the Bar role, and we'll put our heads together and hopefully be able to find a less labour intensive way of keeping the bar stocked for next year. Keele Hall have been worried about security this year (particularly the spring semester) in a way that they haven't ever before, and now insist the doors to the building are locked from 4.30pm. This has posed problems for access to the bar, with people's Keele cards, although apparently coded for access, only working when they feel like it; other members not having access at all. We have a temporary fix right now, and we'll negotiate further about possibilities for giving all members access over the summer.

Rachel Bright's project to ascertain the extent and the importance of the KPA and SCR archives has been completed. Postdoctoral researcher Peter Collinge has drawn up a catalogue (copies provided) and Rachel has written up a report with a summary of the most interesting potential avenues for further research (copies of this also provided). We have already discussed, and the committee approved, inviting Peter to come to the SCR to give a talk on the most significant things he has found in the archive next academic year. We think this could be productive in terms of inviting Keele historians to take a look in the archives; also it will just be fascinating for members to hear some more of the history (reading the report, I personally immediately want to know more about the SCR offering its rooms as police HQ *against* student protesters).

In short, the SCR is busy and is thriving. Priorities for next year, apart from administrative and practical issues (beer stock; locked doors) are to keep up the momentum of events for our members. Every event this year has been well attended and absolutely joyful; more of this please!"

It was agreed to invite Peter Collinge to give a talk on the SCR Archives, with an Honorarium.

05/23 Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2021-2022. For Statement of Accounts, see Minute Book. Stephen reported that, "This was a year in which we made some return to normal trading, but with notable differences:

- Because, as forecast, the University ceased collecting subscriptions on our behalf, although we resumed requesting these, we had to set up our own system. PayPal, in which we opened an account, offers a subscription option which we set up, meaning they will be paid automatically in future, but the feared inertia factor meant not many more than 30 signed up, plus a few by standing order, removing about 150 from our total. With retired members we currently have about 120.
- PayPal receipts, as well as subscriptions, also include numerous Zettle card payment for bar sales on Committee staffed Friday nights.

- We and the University attempted to resume lunchtime Bar service in the previous autumn, but lack of footfall on campus, leading to a restricted menu (leading to less footfall in the Bar) meant over 3 months we both made losses which, coupled with a resurgence of Covid in December, led to us closing before Christmas. We have yet to re-open.
- Some functions were able to take place, but Burns Night had to be cancelled – fortunately that was not the case in this following year.
- When the AGM considered the 2020/21 accounts, we reported that we had uncovered an anomaly in the creditors and debtors figures – described by Birkins 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 as we did not believe there were any debts to or from the University, which had waived the only charges due in the year, and Birkins had told us these figures had not changed since last year, we wondered whether they were a hangover from the days of the previous accountants. The AGM therefore asked that this should be re-examined and probably written out in this next examination, as it has been, by including a balancing figure under “Bar Sales”. (As noted, probably these came to light only because that was a year with so few transactions recorded.)”

The Accounts were approved and adopted by the meeting.

06/23 Election of Committee for 2023/2023

Becky 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 Rebecca Bowler (English)
Secretary/Treasurer	Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR)
Hon. Keeper of the Bar	Mr Niall Hammond (Chapel)
Hon. Wine Stewards	(Mr Stephen Clifford (Retired Member, c/o SCR) (Dr John Butcher (Associate Member)

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	<i>Not filled</i>
Rambles	<i>Not filled</i>

(Co-options would be considered, two offers being made at the meeting.)

Members	Dr Chris Adams (Life Sciences) Professor Marilyn Andrews (Past President) Mr Martin Goodhead (Research Student) Ms Hannah Ireson (Life Sciences)
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Dr James Keegans (Astrophysics)
Mr Chris Murphy (Research Student)
Mr Joe Setchfield (Research Student)
Professor Julius Sim (Health & Rehabilitation)
Dr Adam Stanton (Associate Member)
Dr Jacki Tickle (Associate Member)
Dr Nick Wright (Astrophysics)

07/23 Any Other Business

- (a) The Committee was asked if there was any prospect of returning to Bar lunches. It was agreed there was none at present but another cut price lunch event would be investigated in the Autumn, perhaps again for Christmas.
- (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.

08/23 The Date & Time of the Next Annual General Meeting

These were agreed as: **Friday, 24th May 2024, at 5.30 p.m.** It was agreed this should be held in the Bar not the Common Room.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

Stephen Clifford, Secretary