UNIVERSITY OF KEELE
Staff Common Room
AGM
MINUTES
FRIDAY 30th MAY 2025, 5.30pm
SCR Bar, Keele Hall

01/25 Apologies for Absence: Marilyn Andrews, Caroline Baggaley, Margaret Bird, John Butcher, Kyril Drezov, Ted Evans, Niall Hammond, Sally King, Bev & Ken Newton, Todd O'Neill, Joe Setchfield, Kelcey Swain, Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser.

Present: Becky Bowler (Chair), Stephen Clifford (Secretary/Treasurer), Chris Adams, Juliet Collins, Chris Murphy, Jonathan Parker, Julius Sim and (on Teams) Chris Wain, and at the close of the meeting, Jacki Tickle.

02/25 The **Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting of 24th May 2024 were **agreed** as a correct record.

03/25 Matters Arising on the Minutes.
There were none other than those appearing later on the Agenda.

04/25 Chair's Report

Becky Bowler reported that "It's been a tough year for Keele and for the university sector more widely. We've been focused, at the SCR, on trying to offer a variety of activities for members to attend but without exhausting our current committee beyond the exhaustion inevitable from the situation.

I'm going to recap the year's SCR events, beginning with the New Starters' Buffet on the 23rd October, which was well attended, despite recurring difficulties contacting new members now that the new starters' mailing list has been made defunct. Luckily, Heads of School have been very helpful in disseminating information about the buffet to their new starters. This year, of course, not many departments were actively hiring, and I think most if not all of the new starters were from Life Sciences. There's now a hiring freeze across the whole university so we may need to think about whether a New Starters' Buffet is feasible next year (it may be that some people start anyway, and of course, we are open to PhD students, who aren't affected by the freeze).

We had a group trip out to the Joules Brewery on the 27th November (with thanks to Chris Adams for organising), which was fun, as it always is. At Christmas we had a Christmas lunch, aimed at members with childcare or other responsibilities which mean they can't often get to the bar on Fridays, as well as carol singing and a feast of buffet food at the bar on our last Friday opening before Christmas. In the end, the same group of people came to both.

Burns Night, of course, on the 24th January, was fabulous. Keele Hall Events Management did a wonderful job, and the food was fantastic. We had our new favourite piper, we sang songs (thank you Kelcey) and we drank a good deal of wine and whisky.

In the spring semester we instituted an SCR Quiz, which so far has run: Julius Sim (5th Feb), Ian Fraser (2nd April), Becky and Joe (7th May). We intend to keep this going next year, with a

different quizmaster each month, so let us know if you'd like to write a quiz. They have all been very different!

The Friday night bar remains our most popular offering, and I want to thank everyone who has volunteered their time behind the bar this year: Joe Binks, Chris Murphy, Julius Sim, Marilyn and Todd, Kelcey Swain, Chris Adams, (the young) Peter Lawrence, Niall and Sarah Hammond (with an extra thank you Niall for ensuring we always have enough beer), and Sally King, who is sadly leaving the committee in person though remaining on Teams. We also thank for their service others leaving the Committee, Chris Wain (after many years), Nick Wright (former Keeper of the Bar) and Martin Goodhead. There is room on the committee for new members!"

05/25 Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2023-2024. For Statement of Accounts, see Minute Book. Stephen reported that, "I am very happy with the Accounts, as my reports to each Committee meeting suggested. Although you can never be certain till the purchase costs are analysed, we are nearly £2k up on the year and the price increase we implemented at the start of 2024, following the Accountant's advice last year, has restored our profit margin. Bar turnover was the highest it has been since 2018/19, when Catering run lunches were still in full swing, despite really only opening on term time Friday nights. No staff pay for these nights, together with proceeds from Friday opening of almost exactly £6500, was clearly crucial, together with the discount prices we have achieved on purchases.

In the debtors' figure of £278 (note 6) £105 is the amount due to us from the University account at 31 July (compared with £33 owed by us a year ago). The other £173 represents payment for our web site renewal, made just before year end, which will now appear as an expense in the 2024/25 Accounts.

The Accountant did warn us not to let the profit margin slide by freezing prices too long again, or we might get into a profit/break even cycle, which is something we should consider. My own view was perhaps we should review prices either at the June meeting, or certainly before the 2025/26 year."

The Accounts were approved and adopted by the meeting, with thanks to Stephen.

06/25 Election of Committee for 2025/2025

Stephen & 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, as more people's positions clarified:

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	Vacant
Membership	Vacant
Treasures	Vacant

Rambles	Dr Kelcey Swain (Associate Member)
Members	Dr Chris Adams (Life Sciences) Professor Marilyn Andrews (Past President) Miss Margaret Bird (Retired Member, c/o SCR) 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 Marta Woloszynowska-Fraser (Life Sciences)

07/25 Any Other Business

(a) It was hoped that it would be possible to hold two one off events in the course of the Summer.

(b) It also seemed quite likely that some retirement and leaving does might be booked in the next few months, at the discounted rate available to members through the agreement with the University.

08/25 The Date & Time of the Next Annual General Meeting

These were agreed as: **Friday, 29th May 2026, at 5.30 p.m.** in the Bar.

The meeting ended at 6.02 p.m.

Stephen Clifford, Secretary

http://www.keelescr.org/agm24min.pdf