

Minutes for Annual General Meeting, 7 January 2015

Time: 17.45

Venue: St Hugh's College, Oxford

1. Members present and apologies

1.1. Committee members present: Michael Burden, Brycchan Carey, Daniel Cook, Jeremy Gregory, Matthew Grenby, Neil Howe, Emrys Jones, Matthew McCormack, Frank O'Gorman, Penny Pritchard, Charlotte Roberts, Emma Salgard Cunha, Richard Terry, Caroline Warman, Debbie Welham, Helen Williams. For a full list of other society members present see appendix A

1.2. Apologies received from the following committee members: Michele Cohen, Penelope Corfield, Berta Joncus, Kate Rumbold, Corinna Wagner, Sharon Young.

2. Minutes of last AGM

2.1 Minutes agreed as correct.

3. Matters arising

3.1. JG mentioned that two sub-headings would be added to the AGM Agenda Item 4 (Officers' Reports) : 4.e. Reviews and 'Criticks' Editors, and 4.g. ISECS.

4. Officers' reports

4.a. President.

4.a.1. JG announced that we are looking for two Postgraduate and Early Careers Representatives to continue the excellent work carried out by the previous incumbents.

4.a.2. JG announced that, in conjunction with the University of Newcastle's 'Insights' Lecture Series, BSECS would host a new lecture to take place in late 2015/early 2016. MG elaborated on the aims and intentions of this lecture, and stressed that the event would move around different venues. Sein Creighton welcomed this development.

4.b. Treasurer.

4.b.1. BC circulated copies of the most recent accounts and balance sheet for those present, and then expanded on the figures therein. After this, BC announced that this would be his last report as Treasurer.

4.b.2. Sein Creighton asked about the rise in costs for JECS under 'Resources Expended', which MG explained related to the activities of an editorial assistant undertaking duties for BSECS. Sean Creighton then asked if we could record our thanks to the editorial assistant.

4.b.3. JG asked the attending membership to join him in thanking BC for his efforts as Treasurer.

4.b.4. JG moved that we accept the account. FOG proposed and NH seconded. The accounts were accepted.

4. c. Executive secretary

4.c.1. There was no report from the Executive Secretary.

4. d. Journal editor

4.d.1. MG reported on the high level, and high quality, of submissions that JECS continues to receive. He told the attending members of the analytics he had previously described to the Executive Committee, and announced that his editor-successor, MM, would be taking over very soon.

4.d.2. BC asked MG how JECS compared to other academic journals in terms of the analytics he had discovered (rates of acceptance, etc) and MG responded that, while this was not currently known, it would certainly be worth knowing.

4.d.3. JG thanked MG for his excellent work as editor of *JECS*, and this was echoed by the membership's recognition.

4.e. Reviews and 'Criticks' editors

4.e.1. MM described the improved turnover and output of 'Reviews'.

4.e.2. MM announced that Melodee Beales from Sheffield Hallam University would be taking up the position of Reviews editor as he was stepping down from this role to assume the *JECS* editorship.

4.e.3. EJ reported that nearly 100 online reviews for 'Criticks' had been received since its inception. Some changes of editorial roles within 'Criticks' would soon be under way.

4.e.4. JG thanked MM and EJ for their hard work in their roles, and this was duly recognized by the attending members.

4.f. Conference organisers

4.e.1. JG thanked ESC for taking up the role of Conference Organiser for this year.

4.e.2. ESC said that the quality of the abstracts and the interdisciplinary breadth of applications was particularly impressive. She also reported that the other BSECS Conference which had taken place recently (the Postgraduate and Early Careers Conference in Venice) had been highly successful and postgraduates were well-supported within BSECS.

4.e.3. ESC announced the Call for Papers for the BSECS 2016 Annual Conference, for which the theme would be 'Growth, Expansion, and Contraction'. The dates for this event are 6-8 January 2016.

4.e.4. DW described the changes related to the current year's conference, including the new and improved spaces available in the China Centre and the sandwich lunches included in the conference registration fee.

4.e.5. FOG observed that he estimated that the proportion of 'political' papers in this year's conference (given the theme) was only about one third, and this was unfortunate.

4.e.6. Yvonne Noble mentioned the relative lack of attention to garden historians at BSECS, and that this problem has been the case for some time now. This was discussed, as was the role of the conference theme as a leitmotif' (as observed by Conrad Brunstrom), and DW reminded members that the Call for Papers had been deliberately reworded to reflect this.

4.e.7. Sean Creighton agreed with FOG's point, and repeated his concerns about the dangers of disenfranchising practical historians; MB and NH reiterated again the broad nature of the conference theme and the potential to work within open-ended intellectual forum.

4.f. ISECS

4.f.1. BC explained his new role in BSECS on the planning of the 2019 ISECS Congress in Edinburgh (which would take the theme 'Enlightenment Identities'). He mentioned that the 2015 ISECS Congress takes place in Rotterdam in July and the Call for Papers is still open (just). ISECS elections take place every four years and all members of ISECS/BSECS were entitled to vote in these elections and were warmly encouraged to do so.

5. Report on the election of officers and committee members

5.1. JG reported that he was now stepping down from, and MG would be assuming, the role of President. Caroline Warman assumes the role of Vice-President, CR assumes the role of Treasurer, MM

becomes the editor of JECS, and RT becomes the Assistant Treasurer. HW assumes the new role of Heritage Officer and NH the new role of Membership Secretary. He also reminded the members in attendance that we currently seek applications for two Postgraduate and Early Careers Representatives to replace HW and ESC.

6. Members comments and feedback

6.1. There were no comments or feedback from members.

7. Any other business

7.1. MB asked if we could record our formal thanks for JG's tenure and service during his incumbency as President, and this was accordingly done.

Appendix A

Paul Baines

Patricia McCann

Sean Creighton

James Harriman-Smith

Alasdair Raffe

Gillian Skinner

Peter Nockles

Alexander Huber

Sophie Loussouarn

Conrad Brunstrom

Yvonne Noble

Peter Collinge

Gill Manning