



Approved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024

Time: 3:45pm

Venue: Marplethorpe Hall, St Hugh's College

1. Members present and apologies

In person: Brycchan Carey, Helen Williams, Brianna Robertson-Kirkland, Matthew McCormack, Sarah Fox, Gillian Williamson, Rachel Bynoth, Emma Pearce, Katie Noble, Hardeep Dhindsa, Christoph Heyl, Anna Brunton, Helen Corbett, Sarah Lloyd, Sarah Leanne Phillips, Caroline Warman, Penny Pritchard, Alice Marples, James Wood, Henry Mason, Malcolm Hay, Katie Aske, Rosie Paice, Angela Escott, Cheryll Duncan, Amelia Worsley, Matthew Lloyd Roberts, Emrys Jones, Andrew Dorman, Alex Hobday, Adam Smith, Stephen Gregg, Conrad Brunstrom, Matthew Grenby, James Harriman-Smith, Matthew Roberts, Declan Kavanagh, Paul Stephens, Karen Lipsedge, Kate Tunstall

On Zoom: Ross Nedervelt; Rory Butcher; John Holberg; Roxena?; Alison Inglis-Taylor; Miriam Al Jamil; Susan Rawles

Apologies: N/A

2. Minutes of last AGM

Caroline Warman proposes approving the minutes and Gillian Williamson seconds. Approved.

3. Matters arising

4. Report on the election of officers and council members

Gillian Williamson co-opted as ordinary member – ratified.

One nomination from the exec committee for Vice President: Karen Lipsedge.

Two new co-opted appointments: Katie Snow and Sarah Fox.

Congratulations and thanks to all for your work.

5. Officers' reports

a. President

BC reported on updates to the constitution. Proposed revisions may be viewed at <https://www.bsecs.org.uk/the-society/constitution/>

Governance and constitutional reform. We created a new and smaller executive committee to meet monthly and make executive decisions, and what was the larger executive has become the council.

Responding to changes in charity law, we propose a tweak to paragraph 2 which had been there for 20 years. The new one clarifies our position relating to disputes as a society, which we've had approved by a lawyer.

We have uploaded the proposed changes to the website and circulated the link by email.

Changes proposed by Christoph Heyl; seconded by Brianna Robertson-Kirkland. Unanimously carried.

Major changes include the move to Pembroke next year but we thank St. Hugh's for the excellent 20 years we have enjoyed and will stay in touch.

b. Vice-President

MM reported that over the last year he has shadowed and supported BC and helped PS with financial transactions as well as working with the communications committee.

c. Treasurer

PS thanks the membership for supporting the charity in the last year. The full accountants' report will be uploaded to the website as a public domain document. PS presented an overview explaining outgoings and our deficit last year in line with our charitable goals.

PS was asked about the deficit relative to a long-term plan, and to the move to Pembroke. PS responded that his projections indicate no increased costs. KT responded that Pembroke helps us to meet our EDI goals more effectively. BC responds that we are grateful to PS who has introduced as treasurer some longterm forecasting that we can keep under review to ensure that deficit years are not the norm.

James Wood asked about Wiley payment problem and that this might have played into the financial deficit. PS responds that because of the payment structures this should not have affected our income. BC responds that we had words with Wiley and have now resolved this.

BC thanked PS again for his work on the finances. JHS proposes that we accept these accounts for the previous financial year and DK seconds. Unanimously carried.

d. Executive Secretary

Some roles will become available in 2025 so please consider nominating yourselves and colleagues and feel free to contact me at secretary@bsecs.org.uk.

e. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officers

DK reminds us that the listening event is tomorrow – please come so that we can listen to your views. Please also fill in the survey that we have circulated by email. KL thanks everyone who has provided feedback relating to the conference, marks the relaunch of the mentoring system, and thanks those for participating. BC thanked DK and KL for their work.

f. Conference Organisers

BRK thanks everyone for coming and particularly for all of the alternative sessions which make the event so exciting. Our move to Pembroke came from listening to you and accommodating individual access requirements. We also have new lanyards to identify council members so that we can

assist delegates more easily. Katie Aske asks about the date of the conference, which will be 8-10 January 2025. Rosie Paice thanked the organisers for doing a fantastic job. BC and CW explained that the yearly programming of the conference is dependent upon both the calendar and the Oxford timetable. Rory Butcher asks about hybridity at Pembroke and BRK responds that every conference room will be hybrid. BC thanked the organisers, BRK, MK, and AH for their work organising the conference.

g. Postgraduate/Early Career Representatives

HD reported on the successful Edinburgh conference in July and the proposed conference in Upsala this summer. Anna Brunton commented that as a student that the PG conference is very supportive and nurturing – do spread the word. MOG reported that Diasporas, the ISECS PG/ECR conference, will run this year in Barcelona. CW added that it is fully funded so a great opportunity. Thanks recorded to all.

h. Journal Editors

KT as General Editor thanks everyone who review articles for us and to all authors. Issues will begin to grow next year as the journal is very healthy. We are setting up a working party to consider open access, our partnership with Wiley, to consider our options in detail. We have received a new proposal with Wiley but we will not make any changes except that institutions will not be offered print copies any more because no institutions opted for physical copies. Those who want to go online only can from next year: there may be a price differential but that has not been agreed yet. KT encouraged new submissions.

Sean Moore asked about open access and finances. KT responded that this is more broadly wrapped up in our relationship with Wiley which we will be dealing with soon. BC reported that we are holding off on substantial changes which might effect revenue but that the longer term question about our open access future remains open.

EJ as Reviews editor reported that our reviews pipeline for *J ECS* is healthy and he is grateful to our specialist subject editors and all reviewers. Please get in touch if you would like to review for *J ECS* or to propose something for review – we can't always guarantee that something will be reviewed but generally speaking the landscape is good. Thanks recorded to both.

i. Communications

SF thanked everyone for engaging with us on social media which allows us to share how great the conference is. BC reported that all charities now are required to have a social media policy. MM has been working with the committee on a draft which we are developing. Thanks recorded to both.

j. Criticks

AJS said it has been a wonderful year for Criticks thanks to the people who contribute reviews and podcasts – thanks recorded to AJS for this and please contact AJS if you have any ideas or would like to review anything.

k. ISECS

MOG reported that the Rome conference was in some ways hugely successful but logistically and financially challenging. The society is still in good health. The ISECS archive will now be based in the Bibliothèque du Genève. See above for PG conference in Barcelona. Our bilateral relationships are returning post-Covid. Our Anglo-Italian conference will take place in Oxford with the team of the Travelling Self: Tourism and Life-Writing in 18th Century Europe. An Anglo-Spanish conference might emerge as well as a collaboration with one of the French societies affiliated with ISECS. 2027 will be in Saragossa. Christoph Heyl remarked that he has undertaken some French-German collaborations and wishes us success. BC thanks MOG for his work.

l. Membership

GW thanked everyone for ratification and reminds us that she is a point of liaison between members and Wiley. HW and BC thanked GW for her work.

m. Boydell Book Series

MOG reported that BB are publishing our series Studies in the 18thC. We have around 9 already published and more forthcoming – it is thriving and we encourage more submissions. Open access remains an issue for long form publications as of now so we will be addressing that soon if anyone would like to offer any advice. Ros Ballaster announced the sadness of the General Editors at the recent loss of Rob Hume who is much missed.

n. Funding and Awards

JHS encouraged us to remember the deadline of 1 February for almost all of our bursaries. Feel free to ask questions about eligibility and please nominate students for the president's prize. BC thanked JHS for his work.

6. BSECS relationship with Wiley

BC reported that Wiley suggested to us that *J ECS* goes online only with a small increase to our royalties. We decided that this was not the right time to omit the print copy of the journal. We are renewing our contract with them for the next five years but we can withdraw within that time too.

7. Members' feedback and comments

Anonymous pointed out that the British Library debacle means that hard copies might be in favour. Rory Butcher commented that given the payment issues with Wiley – going through Customer Service etc – leaving things with them and entirely online is a risk and hard copies might be preferable.

8. Any other business of an annual nature

HW thanked BC for his leadership as President.