

The Rewley House Philosophical Society

Minutes of the 2013 AGM [unratified]

Saturday 12th January 2013, in the Lecture Theatre at Rewley House, Oxford

Present: Marianne Talbot *President*
Chris Farmer *Chairman*
Peter Gibson *Secretary*
Eileen Walker *Treasurer*
Committee members, and other members

Apologies: David Jones, Chris Lyons

1. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.
2. **Officers:** Chris Farmer completes his two-year term of office, and Bob Stone was elected as Chairman for 2013-2015. Chris Farmer also decided to step down as Review Editor. Appreciation was expressed for Chris's dynamic efforts in both posts. David Jones was elected as the new Editor of the Review. He has agreed to accept the post, assuming there will be experienced aid available when necessary. The remaining officers were re-elected en bloc. Peter Ells, Frank Brierley and Chris Lyons completed their two-year memberships of the Committee. Chris Lyons will be a co-opted member in future, as he is the Honorary Auditor of the accounts. Bill Radcliffe resigned from the Committee, but will continue in the post of Recordings Manager (since the Website Manager can deal with recordings issues in the Committee). Patrick Butterly, Tom Fisher and Fauzia Rahman-Greasley were elected to the Committee. There had been some tinkering with the Constitution over whether the outgoing Chairman could or should be on the Committee. Since Chris Farmer would like to be on the Committee, and the original idea of maintaining continuity was felt to be good, he was also elected to the Committee (with the formalities discreetly sorted later, the AGM being happy with the arrangement). This was the result:

President: Marianne Talbot **Chairman:** Bob Stone (2013-15) **Secretary:** Peter Gibson

Treasurer: Eileen Walker **Website:** Mike Arnavot **Review:** David Jones

International: Christian Michel

Elected (2013-15): Patrick Butterly, Tom Fisher, Fauzia Rahman-Greasley, Chris Farmer

Co-Opted: Chris Lyons (Hon. Auditor), David Hunt (Chadwick Prize), Peter Townsend (Friday evenings)

3. **President:** Philosophy continues to flourish at the department (with the online courses and weekends doing better than the weekly classes). The online courses are continuing to expand. The President emphasised the importance of making members aware of the availability of bursaries from the Society, for the Rewley House philosophy weekends.
4. **Chairman:** The outgoing Chairman was well pleased with the year, citing a full Review, the growth of the prize activities, and the Members' Days, all of them very successful.
5. **Secretary:** The latest estimate of the members total is 323 (compared with 290 last year), reflecting continued steady growth. This represents 304 households, of whom 41 do not provide an email address. 62 members live abroad, the most significant area of growth. There is now a Twitter account (@OxPhilSoc) which has 224 followers, most of whom do not appear to be members of the Society. The Society tries to follow any members who are on Twitter. There is currently no Facebook presence, and it was agreed that this should be investigated.
6. **Treasurer:** We made a profit not a loss this year, due to the increase in subscriptions for UK members, a Members' Day profit and lack of bursary applications. A loss is always acceptable, given that we exist to benefit our members. Due to the steep rise in costs, we are currently making a loss of around £2 on each overseas member. The Committee was authorised to remedy the situation by making a small increase in overseas subscriptions, sufficient to cover the cost of mailing the Review.
7. **Review:** The Review went to press in early December, but there have been delays at the printer, and the posting date is now January 25th, which was agreed to be less than ideal. The material could be published on the website, but the current agreement is to delay that until a month or two after paper publication. The Editor was delighted with the high standard of work, and a Review which is both full and interesting.
8. **Website:** There has been (roughly) a 10% growth in activity on the site. Detailed statistics about who is using it are no longer feasible. The Forum had been quite active, with 132 posts from 16 people. An opinion from a member that a more dynamic and open discussion format would be good was noted, and the Secretary agreed to investigate. There have been a large number of downloads of both Review articles and recordings of past weekends.
9. **Recordings:** The importance was stressed of making sure that someone is always available to record the lectures, if the Recordings Manager is not present. The Secretary will try to ensure this.
10. **Prizes:** The Chadwick Prize had a substantial number of entries this year (which has not always been the case). The termly prize awarded by the Society for essays written on Rewley House philosophy courses is suddenly flourishing, after a slow start. All entries this term were from the online courses, and it was realised that the deadline is too early for the local tutored courses, so this will be rectified.
11. **Members' Day 2012:** It was agreed that Eileen Walker will be in charge of the Saturday 7th Sept 2013 Members' Day, with assistance from Patrick Butterly. The front-runner for a topic is currently 'Empiricism'. The one-day meeting at Pigotts (in Buckinghamshire) will be repeated on 22nd September, and Peter Townsend is in charge.
12. **AOB:** The high cost of the annual dinner was mentioned. There will be another dinner on 7th Sept (as we switch to a different annual cycle), and it is hoped that the cost will be reduced.

Next AGM: Saturday 11th January 2014