

ODUCE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

AGM 12 JANUARY 2008 AT 1.45 PM

MINUTES

Present: Marianne Talbo President
Frank Brierley Chairman
Eileen Walker Treasurer and Membership Secretary
David Hunt Committee Member
Sir Alan Bailey Committee Member
Andrew Dalkin Meetings Secretary

and 12 other members of the Society

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Thorman, Tape Librarian and from Phil Rees, Review Editor.

1 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved by the meeting, having been proposed and seconded by Eileen Walker and Marianne Talbot.

2 President's Report

The President reported that the government had announced the intention of removing funding for courses where the qualification earned was at the same or a lower level to that already achieved by the participants. It was estimated that this would result in a 75% reduction in Rewley House's income over the next 3 years. Many courses were currently subsidised by 50% and it was expected that there would be increases of which would at least double course fees.

Members of the society were invited to e-mail the president with their suggestions on how the marketing of courses could be improved and with any other ideas about how to overcome this reduction in funding.

3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that there had been another good year of seminars and congratulated the President for arranging them all. Ann Long was also congratulated for having had her book published. This had formed the subject matter for a highly successful Members Day in June. Thanks were also given to Nigel Cowell for serving as Acting Chairman during the Chairman's indisposition. Sincere thanks were also given to Phil Rees for another excellent Review and to Eileen Walker for her indefatigable work as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

4 Treasurer and Membership Secretary's Report

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary circulated to the meeting the official accounts. It was reported that all debts had been paid and that assets were still divided between Barclays Bank (which held the funds for the day-to-day operation of the society) and Bank of Scotland (which held the society's reserves). There had been a slight loss over the year but this was not the cause of any concern as reserves stood at a very healthy level. Three bursaries had been awarded in the course of the year.

Membership of the society now stood at 219, which is the highest it has ever been. It was proposed that fees for new overseas members should be increased to £15 in Europe and £17 for the rest of the World, to reflect the higher postage costs of

sending the Review. This was proposed by Frank Brierley, seconded by Erica Lacey and carried by the meeting.

The meeting accepted the accounts (proposed by Frank Brierley and seconded by Sir Alan Bailey) and noted that the Society was in a very healthy condition.

5 Review Editor's Report

In the absence of the Review Editor a report was circulated which gave an account of the main features of the year. There was a discussion of the dates for submission and judging relating to the Chadwick Prize, with the President emphasising the difficulty for academics of undertaking marking over the summer months which were the time when they conducted much of their own research. It was decided that this would be considered further in the light of the change to the date of the annual dinner when the prizes are awarded, which had previously been in the autumn and was now held in January.

6 Tape Librarian's Report

The meeting expressed its thanks to Alison Thorman who was no longer continuing as tape librarian. Alison had taken over from Joan Oswald during the transition from tapes to electronic recordings. It was noted that Bill Radcliffe had very kindly volunteered to undertake this role, though he did not wish to be a member of the committee.

7 Members Day

Tom Fisher kindly agreed to organise Members Day. A topic was still needed and Moral Philosophy was proposed. Members Day would be held on 8 June.

8 Election of Officers

The meeting expressed its thanks to Nigel Cowell who was now retiring from his post-Chairmanship year on the Committee and to Alison Thorman who had resigned as Tape Librarian and no longer wished to be a Committee Member. Bill Radcliffe was appointed Tape Librarian. Patrick Butterley and Hugh Miller also retired from the Committee and were thanked for their contributions. Peter Gibson and Sir Alan Bailey both remained as Committee members and David Hunt remained responsible for the organisation of the Chadwick Prize.

There were two vacancies for ordinary members and Tom Fisher was proposed by Frank Brierley and seconded by Nigel Cowell and Hugh Miller was proposed by Nigel Cowell and seconded by Marianne Talbot. Both were elected nem con.

9 Any Other Business

Charles Brown raised the question of the word limit for contributions to the on-line forum. After a lengthy debate on the need to allow people to develop their arguments and yet not occupy too much of the available space the meeting agreed that the limit should be set at 400 words.

The question of booking for weekend schools was raised in the light of Rewley House's change in practice on sending out leaflets. It was felt however that the Society could not reasonably expect Rewley House to give members preferential treatment for booking late, particularly given the financial situation described by the President.

10 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that there would be a committee meeting on Saturday 16 February at 1.45 pm at Rewley House.