



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November at 3.30 pm in the Wolfson Room, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London**

**In attendance:** Charlotte Alston, Richard Hawkins, Jamie Wood, Ian Talbot, Hannah Burrows, Charles Insley, Kate Bradley, Daniel Grey, Neil Fleming, Kate Hill, Sarah Barstow, Peter D'Sena, Rachel Bright, Lucinda Matthews-Jones, Heather Shore, Ariel Hessayon, Diana Jeater, Alison Hems, Simon Peplow, Mike Rapport, Karin Dannehl, Cath Feely, Sarah Wolfson, Ian Cawood, Nandini Chatterjee.

**1. Matters arising:**

At last year's AGM there was discussion of inviting a representative from the Classics Association. This has not yet been followed up: there have been a number of changes to personnel amongst the executive officers this year and we have focused on getting people established in these roles.

Richard Hawkins noted that the start time of the last AGM had been 3.45 pm.

**2. Confirmation of officers and Steering Committee members:**

Lucy Matthews-Jones was confirmed in post as Co-Convenor of History UK. Charlotte Alston was confirmed in post as Secretary. Neil Fleming was confirmed in post as Research Officer.

Members of the AGM expressed their thanks to Daniel Grey for all his hard work as Secretary over the last three years. Daniel is standing down as Secretary but will remain on the SC for the rest of his term.

Simon Peplow was confirmed as the new ECR representative on the Steering Committee.

**3. Nomination of new Steering Committee members**

The following SC members have reached the end of their second term, and are therefore standing down: Justin Champion (RHUL); Mark Clapson (Westminster); Robert McNamara (University of Ulster); Lowri Ann Rees (Bangor); Paul Corthorn (Queens University Belfast); Andrew Roach (University of Glasgow).

The following further SC members have elected to stand down: Joan Allen (Newcastle); Maureen Meikle (Leeds Trinity); Mark Hutchinson (Durham); Tom O'Donnell (UCL, PG representative); Pippa Virdee (De Montfort); Matthew Hughes (Brunel).

Members of the AGM recorded their thanks to all these SC members, many of whom had contributed a great deal to the work of History UK in recent years.

As the Constitution allows for up to 30 elected SC members, above the various ex-officio and executive positions, there are currently up to 12 vacancies on the Steering Committee.

Charlotte circulated nominations for membership of the SC, along with supporting statements from their departments. The nominees are as follows: Manuela Williams (Strathclyde); David Stack (Reading); Adam Morton (Newcastle); Mike Rapport (Glasgow); Efram Sera-Shriar (Leeds Trinity); Nandini Chatterjee (Exeter); Euryn Roberts (Bangor); Charlie Whitham (Edge Hill); Alex Titov (Queens University Belfast); Stewart McCain (St Mary's University London).

It was agreed to elect all ten nominees, and they were welcomed to the Steering Committee.

#### **4. Convenors' Report**

Heather gave an update on events since the last AGM, as follows:

In March, our co-convenor Lucie Matthews-Jones worked on an event with the British Library Labs, to explore the BL's digital collections. We are keen to develop this relationship. The University of Lincoln have expressed an interest in running a second iteration of this event. If SC members are interested in getting involved Lucie can provide details.

In May we ran our second highly successful academic job boot camp, inviting both PhD students and ECR historians to take part

In September, our education officer, Peter D'Sena ran the second New to Teaching event, exploring themes including digital history, small group teaching, curriculum design and career development

We were represented last week at the IHR History Fair by our treasurer Richard Hawkins.

We are currently planning a number of events, including a transitions between teaching and HE event to be held in Leeds, and the next academic boot camp.

We have had a number of blogs on our website, including one by our new ECR representative Simon Peplow. If anyone has an idea for blogging about issues in HE, teaching, research, or indeed, in response to the papers you've heard today, do please contact Heather or Lucie, or Jamie Wood as Media Officer.

Heather and Jamie were working on a collaboration with The National Archives, regarding TNA's relationships with HE. They would be in touch in the next couple of months with more information about this and about how to get involved.

Heather had also collated responses from History UK members for the Stern Review consultation, and had submitted an HUK response.

Lucie mentioned some issues that were raised at the last Steering Committee in October, which related to the number of meetings of the SC, and the institutional membership.

a) We would like to move to three meetings a year instead of the current four. This would mean we have meetings in February, May and November. The November meeting will be the AGM meeting, and so the business element of the meeting will have to extend in order to allow reporting from our various representatives. We currently do this in the October meeting, but not in the AGM meeting.

There was broad agreement at the AGM on this: concerns were raised that this would mean a shorter plenary event, to accommodate the business meeting, and that given that there was a long gap from May to November there would be a lot to squeeze into the business meeting. The points were also made that more use could be made of email correspondence, and that, if we planned further events both in and outside London, these would provide additional fora for discussion. The AGM also discussed the timing

of the May meeting: Peter D'Sena noted that it often clashed with the Historical Association's annual conference. On one previous occasion the May meeting had moved to Bristol so that members could attend both: this meeting had not been well attended though as many SC members struggled to get there. It was also noted that the academic bootcamp, which was timed to coincide with the May meeting, was one of our most successful events: this was a reason to keep the meeting in London. A 'bootcamp' north event was still on the agenda.

It was noted that the upcoming May meeting is scheduled for the first May bank holiday weekend: all agreed this might not be ideal either for the SC, or for bootcamp attendees. The convenors agreed to look into what could be done about this.

b) We have suggested that rather than charge members for attendance at the Plenary/AGM, that the price of institutional membership be increased so as to include attendance at the Plenary for a representative who may or may not be a Steering Committee member. All were agreed that this made good sense. If we knew that we had the costs of the Plenary covered already, we could adopt a more flexible pricing strategy for external audiences and for students, so as to attract a broader audience.

#### **5. Treasurer's report:**

Richard Hawkins circulated History UK's accounts for the year. Thanks to Sue Davison's hard work chasing up, we now have 70 subscriptions for the 2016-17 year. Despite rising expenditure (in large part due to the rising cost of room hire at the IHR), we now have a surplus of £4000. Evidently it is important to have some kind of financial buffer, but this does mean that we are able to support, or partly support, new events that might be suggested.

Members of the AGM expressed their thanks both to Sue and to Richard.

**6. Secretary's report:** neither Charlotte nor Daniel had anything to add.

#### **7. Any Other Business:**

Peter D'Sena noted that the Royal Historical Society had agreed to fund another New To Teaching event next September: the precise date is still to be confirmed. Peter will be looking for people who would like to contribute or attend – please contact him if you are interested. The RHS will pay travelling expenses for contributors.

The date of the next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018.