



## **BRASENOSE SOCIETY**

### **Annual General Meeting: 17 September 2011**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 6:00pm in Lecture Room XI

#### **1 Apologies**

Too many apologies for absence had been received to list individually. Roger Cashmore sent his apologies personally. Collectively all apologies were noted and appreciated.

#### **2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2010 were approved.

#### **3 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising that were not already on the agenda.

#### **4 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the Society's accounts for the year ended 31 July 2011. There was a small deficit for the year (of just under £180). £540 was taken via online credit/debit card bookings for the President's Summer Party. This online booking system will be used for future events. Total reserves remain at around £12,400 (*see attached accounts as circulated at the meeting*).

Paula Carter explained the BNC Society Committee's intention to underwrite the cost for Year Reps at next year's Annual Dinner. This is a proposal in principle, subject to the Treasurer's approval. Year Rep duties are to stay in touch with their year group and encourage peers to attend events. In previous years a lunch has been held to show gratitude to the Year Reps.

#### **5 Election of President, Vice-President, and other Committee members**

For the forthcoming year, Lucinda Riches was proposed for election as President and Nigel Jones was proposed for election as Vice-President.

The proposal for election of the President Lucinda Riches and election of Nigel Jones as Vice-President were seconded and carried nem. con.

The following non-Officer Committee Members were also re-elected:

Elizabeth Carter, David Clark, Paul Dawson-Bowling, Tristan Elbrick, Matt Forbes, Charlie Furness-Smith, Drusilla Gabbott, Mike Gill, Jeremy McMullen, Mike Rountree and Donald Rushton.

The proposal for election of Committee Members was seconded and carried nem. con.

#### **6 Membership fee**

In accordance with the Rules of the Society, the membership fee is to be fixed by the Committee from time to time. The President reported that, at its meeting earlier the same

day, the Committee had again fixed the membership fee at nil for the time being. This would enable former members of the College to stay in touch, through the Society, at no cost to them for as long as the College can afford it.

The Society is able to manage its finances without any subscription from its members, thanks to the generosity of the College in publishing and distributing *The Brazen Nose* and *the Brazen Notes* without charge to the Society.

One member repeated his suggestion from the previous year, that the Society could charge a subscription, since most members would be happy to pay a modest sum. However, it was pointed out that subscriptions had been abolished to ensure that all former members of College automatically become members of the Society and receive its publications free of charge. What is more, the Society does not need funds because its events are essentially self-financing; it has limited expenditure and relatively substantial reserves.

The proposal for the membership fee to remain at nil was seconded and carried nem. con.

## **7 Year Reps**

Matt Forbes was absent from the meeting due to his honeymoon and was therefore unable to update the Society on the Year Rep scheme. It was agreed that Year Reps would look into the re-ordering of merchandise. It was noted by one member that there would not be any younger members (later than 1992) attending the Annual Dinner this year. The issue of how to engage younger members was discussed. The proposal to offer a lower priced ticket or complimentary ticket, as an incentive to encourage younger members to become more involved, was discussed further. It was agreed in principal that the Society could subsidise the cost of Year Rep tickets to the Annual Dinner on a trial basis.

Liz Miller clarified that Members are invited back to College for their first Gaudy 7 years after matriculation. Lucinda Riches confirmed that she will be attended the first JCR Meeting to raise awareness of the Society among current students. Lucinda is fully supportive of the Year Rep scheme and aims to improve this next year. It was agreed that the Year Rep scheme was a beneficial network for the College.

Concerns were raised over dropping attendance rates. It was suggested that this could be due to high attendance during the 2009 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. It was also suggested that lack of parking options in central Oxford could be a deterrent. Philip Parker, the Bursar, explained that parking in Radcliffe Square was not permitted due to Council regulations, unless for access reasons.

## **8 Future Society Events**

The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 15 September 2012, the Eights Week Lunch will be held on Saturday, 26 May 2012. The President's Summer Party drinks are to be confirmed by Lucinda Richards. Matt Forbes will liaise and confirm the younger members London drinks at a later date.

The issue of how to involve the younger generation of members was raised again. Lucinda Riches clarified that she will attend the first JCR and HCR meetings to raise awareness. The Development office informed the Society that forms were distributed to the Leavers each year at the end of term to collect their personal contact details. This year this this

data collection was implemented via forms which were to be completed in the Lodge once room keys were returned and also via an online survey emailed to all Finalists. A competition was also run for the first time this year to incentivise returns. Approximately 50% were returned. The Society asked for this to be improved and for forms to be distributed during matriculation instead and for better communication of data with the College Office. Liz Miller will look into this.

## **9 Grant making**

The Society would continue its policy of making small grants to worthwhile projects within College, supporting events the College is unable to fund and supporting undergraduate requests for funding.

The Mentoring Scheme is in need of reinvigoration, Lizzie Hardingham, Alumni Relations Officer, plans to work on this.

## **10 Date of 2012 Dinner**

The Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 15 September 2012, during the University's Alumni Weekend. Further details of this, and the other events planned for the forthcoming year, would be publicised on the College website.

## **11 Votes of thanks**

Sincere votes of thanks were extended to the Principal and Fellows, the Bursar, Domestic Bursar and staff, the Editor of the Brazen Nose and the Development Office for their support of the Society's AGM and Annual Dinner, despite the disruption of Project Q.

Further votes of thanks were paid to outgoing member Mark Saville, former member of the BNC Society Committee.

## **12 Any other business**

There was no other business.