



BRASENOSE SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting: 18 September 2021

The Annual General meeting of the Society was held at 6pm in the Medieval Kitchen

1 Welcome

Amanda Pullinger, President, welcomed everyone to this in-person event.

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Dr Llewellyn Morgan, Philip Parker, Simon Smith, Donald Rushton, Penny Gilbert, Secretary Penny Andrews and Treasurer Nigel Bird.

3 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not already on the Agenda.

4 Approval of minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 12 September 2020 were approved *nem con*.

Proposer: David Clark

Secunder: Rod Clayton

5 Treasurer's report

Copies of the Accounts were distributed. The Society's closing funds for 2021 are £9.637.44. There were no questions on the Accounts.

6 Election of President, Vice President and other Committee members

Rod Clayton (Vice President) was elected as President and Narmarda Thiranagama as Vice President.

Proposed for re-election to the Committee: Sarah Atkins, David Bradbury, David Clark, Paul Dawson-Bowling, Drusilla Gabbott, Amanda Holland, Jane Johnson, Alexandra Marks.

Proposed for election to the Committee for the first time: Rosie Duthie.

These members were all (re) elected *nem con*.

Proposer: Paul Dawson-Bowling

Secunder: Paul Silk.

7 Votes on Resolutions 1, 2, 3: changes to Society name, membership criteria, and ex officio Committee membership

Amanda Pullinger, President, gave the background on the proposals. A small sub-committee comprising herself, Drusilla Gabbott, Alexandra Marks, Penny Andrews and Liz Miller had been put together to look at clarifying the Society's role, purpose and communication in order to ensure all alumni and students leaving BNC understand the Society's role. She explained that the BNC Society was created in 1937 and there had not been an in-depth review of its name, objects or activities recently in the light of many subsequent changes including, most importantly, the creation of an Alumni & Development office in 2008.

Amanda outlined the programme undertaken to better define the Society and College's respective roles and activities. The sub-committee reviewed Oxford colleges', corporates' and other universities' approaches including naming, activities, membership and purpose statements. We then defined the purpose and activities as clearly as we could to ensure the name and function were clear and that the committee contained an appropriate and inclusive mix of members. The three resolutions today came out of this process.

- Resolution 1: a proposal to change the Brasenose Society's name from the Brasenose Society to the Brasenose Alumni Society in line with normative practice in comparable institutions to make its function clearer to undergraduates and graduates.

Proposer: David Bradbury

Seconder: Jane Johnson

- Resolution 2: a change to the membership. We had noted that universities and corporates now often include ex-staff as 'alumni', so David Clark had proposed and the committee agreed that we should invite staff with an initial form of words to define the invitation criteria agreed between David Clark and the Bursar, Philip Parker.

Proposer: David Clark

Seconder: David Bradbury

- Resolution 3: a change to add an Academic Representative from Brasenose to the Committee for a perspective on research and teaching. As an accompanying measure it was proposed that the ex Officio membership of the Senior Tutor and the Editor of The Brazen Nose should end. Amanda reassured the meeting that these two post holders agreed this was appropriate, due to changing roles and in particular the fact that the Brazen Nose's compilation is no longer the task of the Society and the responsibility lies with the DO.

Proposer: Rod Clayton

Seconder: David Bradbury

The resolutions were passed *nem con*.

8 Year Rep report

Drusilla reported that there had been two Year Rep meetings in lockdown, one on Zoom with 15+ Reps and one the same day as the AGM, at 4pm. During the past year we have published a guide to running events on and offline. There have been successful events on Zoom, an event is planned later this month by 1970s reps at the Athenaeum. Drusilla invited anyone who would like to be a Rep to step forward and offered support, explaining that the Reps' role was to encourage attendance at spontaneously arranged, Society and College events. She thanked all Reps particularly those present at the AGM.

9 Upcoming Society events

There is to be a 1974 Society event on Alternative Careers in November – Jane Johnson and Drusilla Gabbott gave details and explained the concept. Jane reported that 1974 Society events on Zoom in lockdown had been very successful. It was confirmed that both men and women were welcome at these events and that several men did attend.

The President explained that the Society is putting links on its part of the website to various other alumni groups formed round interest areas.

The President expressed an opinion based on her overseas experience in alumni events in New York that having varied events such as book launches, rowing and so on was particularly effective in getting different cohorts of alumni to attend. Zoom events had successfully attracted many who might not have attended events in person.

She told those gathered that the Committee now hoped and intended to resume normal monthly events at the O & C particularly one for alumni who had just graduated.

The President said she was sorry that the party she had hoped to arrange at the Tower of London had not been possible due to the timing of various waves of Lockdown and hoped that perhaps that venue might be considered in future. The Presidential event this year had been a walk on the Thames.

10 Votes of thanks

The President thanked the Society for the opportunity to serve as president for the preceding 19 months – and the Society applauded her in thanks for her service.

A particular vote of thanks was recorded to Committee member Donald Rushton who had served 25 years on the Committee and was stepping down. It was hoped that the Committee might host an informal dinner for him next year.

Penny Andrews was thanked for her original initiative and hard work on reviewing the Society's role and objects and Amanda expressed sadness that Penny had not had the satisfaction of being present to see the resultant resolutions carried 'so smoothly' at this meeting.

11 11. AOB

There was no other business.