



BRASENOSE SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting: 21 September 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 6:00pm in the Amersi Foundation Lecture Room (formerly Lecture Room XI)

1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Paul Dawson-Bowling, Robert Cashmore, Llewelyn Morgan, Philip Parker (Bursar), Donald Rushton and Simon Smith.

2 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 15 September 2018 were approved.

3 Matters arising

There were no matters arising not already on the agenda.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer circulated the Society's annual accounts for the year 1 August 2018 – 31 July 2019.

Overall, there was a surplus of around £250 as the President's Summer Party had made a surplus of over £450. The Society's reserves are now about £10,100. The Society's finances are therefore in good health.

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

For the forthcoming year, Amanda Pullinger (currently Vice-President) was proposed for election as President. She was seconded and elected nem con.

Rod Clayton (currently a Committee member) was proposed for election as Vice-President. He was seconded and elected nem con.

Proposed for re-election as members of the Committee were: Penny Andrews, David Bradbury, David Clark, Rod Clayton, Paul Dawson-Bowling, Deirdre Duignan, Drusilla Gabbott, Amanda Holland, Jane Johnson and Donald Rushton.

There were two new nominations for the Committee: Sarah Williamson Atkins (1984) and John Fawcett-Ellis (2014). Their reasons for standing, as stated on their nomination forms, were read out.

The proposed re-election of existing Committee Members, and election of two new members, was seconded and carried nem. con.

Ex officio officers of the Committee are: the Principal (John Bowers); the Director of Development (Liz Miller); the Senior Tutor (Simon Smith); the Editor of *The Brazen Nose* (Llewelyn Morgan) and the Bursar (Philip Parker). The three most recent former Presidents (Harry Nicholson, Penny Gilbert and the outgoing President, Paul Silk) are also *ex officio* members of the Committee.

6 Change of Secretary

The Secretary announced that, after 25 years, she would be stepping down immediately after this AGM. Penny Andrews, former President of the Society and a Committee member for five years,

had offered to take over. She would do so on an acting basis until formal election at the 2020 AGM. It was open to other members to stand for election if they chose. However, the Committee anticipated that Penny would wish to continue as Secretary, and was likely to be elected as such next year.

7 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.

As the Treasurer had explained at previous AGMs, 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 *Brazen Notes* without charge to the Society. Liz Miller had told the Committee that the cost of publication and distribution of the College magazine (*The Brazen Nose*) and newsletter (*The Brazen Notes*) is around £30,000 p.a. There may therefore come a time when the College has to consider whether this expenditure represents good value for money.

The proposal to charge no membership fee again this year was carried nem com.

8 Year Reps.

Drusilla Gabbott, Year Reps. co-ordinator, had hosted a meeting with Year Reps (YRs) earlier in the afternoon. The YRs scheme is in good health. Most years since 1949 now have a YR though some YRs are more active than others. Encouragingly, this year for the first time, a YR vacancy was filled straightaway when it was mentioned in *The Brazen Nose*.

The principal duty of YRs is to encourage their year group to attend Society events (the AGM and Annual Dinner) and College events (of which there are now very many arranged by the Development Office).

Liz said that, at a recent event in Cambridge, BNC's YRs scheme had been heralded as a leader in its field.

Drusilla has produced draft guidelines for YRs wishing to run their own get-togethers or social events for their year group. These will be circulated shortly.

Emily Bruce, Development Officer, was thanked for her fabulous support of YRs, and alumni generally.

9 Date of 2019 Annual Dinner and other events

The date for the Society's next Annual Dinner is yet to be confirmed. It is usually scheduled to coincide with the Oxford Reunion weekend, provisionally planned to take place on Friday 18 - Sunday 20 September 2020. However, this clashes with Jewish New Year so may change. The date will therefore be confirmed in due course.

The date and venue of the incoming President's Summer Drinks will be confirmed in due course.

Monthly drinks at the O&C Club will resume in October 2019, as usual on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm until May 2020 (but excluding January 2020). The October drinks (on Tuesday 1 October 2019) would be targeted particularly at new alumni; the November event at College rowers; and the March drinks at YRs. However, all alumni would be welcome to all of these drinks evenings.

Other events would be published in *Brazen Notes* and on the College website.

10 Votes of thanks

Sincere votes of thanks were extended to the Principal and Fellows, the Bursar, Domestic Bursar and staff, and the Development Office for their support of the Society's AGM, the Annual Dinner and all the Society's other activities. Thanks were also given to Llewelyn Morgan, Editor of *The Brazen Nose* and *Brazen Notes*.

Further votes of thanks were paid to the outgoing President, Paul Silk, for an excellent year and a particularly successful summer drinks party at The Charterhouse.

The Secretary was thanked for her long service.

11 Any other business

The Secretary mentioned that Estella Kessler (HCR President), who was present at the AGM, would be attending the dinner this evening as the Society's guest. Members were encouraged to introduce themselves to Estella, and make her feel welcome.