

Meeting held on 9th October 2016 • Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at Sundaes Gelato, 193 Cowley Road, Oxford at 5:45pm on Sunday 9th October 2016.

Summary of Action Points

- Alex to update the standing orders in line with the changes made in a previous meeting.
- Lily to update the signatories on the bank account.
- Alex to give an update on distance fanfic at the next committee meeting.
- Alex to move domain name registration back to Weebly at the end of the 60-day waiting period.
- Alex to notify Emma of the decision with regard to the Yule Ball account.
- Alex, Brigitte, Lily and Sophie to write rounds for the Sorting Quiz.
- Alex and Sophie to redraft the list of items for the Scavenger Hunt.
- Lily to contact regular members regarding conduct at Butterbeer and Banter.
- Lily to investigate the QPay and Cashew systems further and report to the next meeting.
- Alex to order more mugs.
- Sophie to investigate possible equalities badge designs.
- Lily to amend emails to make key event details more prominent.

Present

Lily Miles (President), Alex Homer (Secretary), Lauren Forwood (First Year Rep), Charlie Hutchings, Sophie Jaquet Bennett, Brigitte Stenhouse.

Present by proxy

Cathy Wormald (PR Officer; Alex Homer as proxy).

Also in attendance

Amy, Raffaella.

Apologies for absence

Nevin Nirsimloo (*Quibbler* Editor), Jacob Topp-Mugglestone.

Minutes and matters arising

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were **unanimously approved**, with minor corrections.

2. Update to standing orders

Alex noted that this was still to be done. **Action: Alex to update standing orders.**

3. Complaints procedure flowchart

Alex noted that this had now been made and posted to the Committee Facebook group.

4. Inclusivity Policy update

Alex noted that this had been done.

5. Signatory update

Lily noted that this was still to be done, and in any case would have had to be done again anyway due to the impending election of a new Treasurer. **Action: Lily to update signatories.**

6. Distance fanfic

Alex didn't notice this item on the agenda, and so it was deferred to the next meeting. **Action: Alex to give an update on distance fanfic at the next meeting.**

7. Bonn conference

Lily noted that she had replied to Bonn in accordance with previous meetings' decisions.

8. Email and website

Alex announced that he had broadly resolved the clusterfuck with the website, and that all that remained was, when the compulsory 60-day notice period expired, to transfer the domain registration back to Weebly. **Action: Alex to move registration back to Weebly at end of 60-day waiting period.**

9. Termcard

There was nothing to report.

10. Quibbler

It was noted that Tom was in the process of putting together the graphic design for the magazine version of the *Quibbler*, and that this would be completed as soon as possible.

General business

11. Election of Treasurer

It was noted that Kalina had resigned as Treasurer; she had also resigned as IT Officer, but this was an issue for the Exec. Sophie nominated Lauren Forwood for the vacant position of Treasurer. Lily Miles seconded the nomination, and an election was duly held.

Result: Lauren Forwood was **unanimously elected**. Lauren therefore assumed the office of Treasurer.

12. Yule Ball account

Alex noted that the Yule Ball account was still in Emma's name, and still contained around £1200 of funds. Alex proposed that the account be closed, and its funds transferred to the HPSoc account; this funding would be ringfenced to use only for a future Yule Ball, unless the Committee subsequently decided otherwise. Lily subsequently seconded the motion, and a vote was held.

Result: the proposal was **unanimously passed**. **Action: Alex to notify Emma.**

13. Pricing of events

Lily raised the question of the pricing of events on the termcard. It was agreed that the following prices would be applied.

- Sorting ceremony and quiz: free for members, £5 non-members;
- Scavenger Hunt: free for members, £1 non-members;
- Butterbeer and Banter: £2 members, £4 non-members;
- Design a school of magic: free for members, £1 non-members;
- Cursed Child B&B: £2 members, £4 non-members;
- Geek Quiz: free for members and non-members;
- Formal Hall: if at Oriel (see below), £13 for members (members-only event);
- Fanfic Night: free for members, £1 non-members;
- Christmas Dinner: cost of food.

Alex raised that he had asked a friend at Oriel to host the Society for Formal Hall, and she had agreed. He noted that he had also applied for Associate Membership of Oriel's MCR, which, if approved, would possibly allow him to book it himself.

Alex asked if the Bodleian Library representative had been to Freshers' Fair to collect society literature. It was noted that they had, and Alex noted his excitement at his design's being in the Bodleian.

14. Upcoming events

14a) *Sorting ceremony and quiz*

Alex noted that still not enough people had volunteered to write rounds for the Quiz. It was noted that the previous year's quiz had had 50 questions, and that Lily, Alex and Sophie had already volunteered to write rounds (behind-the-scenes, a "Wipeout" round as on last year's quiz, and a basic creatures round, respectively). Lily had also had the idea of an etymology round, and there would also be an origami round ongoing throughout the quiz.

Brigitte volunteered to write a picture round. Sophie volunteered to write an additional round.

Action: Alex, Brigitte, Lily and Sophie to write their rounds.

14b) *Scavenger hunt*

Alex suggested it would be nice to redraft the list of items for the Scavenger Hunt. Alex and Sophie agreed to meet and do this. **Action: Alex and Sophie to redraft the list of items for the Scavenger Hunt.**

14c) *Butterbeer and Banter*

14c)i) *Content guidance*

It was noted that at previous B&B events the topics for discussion had got rather close to the line of acceptability, especially with respect to the Inclusivity Policy. It was suggested that it might be good to have an announcement at the start of the event about what was and wasn't acceptable.

Alex proposed that, firstly, it be announced that people should feel free to leave at any time, for any reason. Sophie proposed that the example be given of going to the toilet, to reduce the risk of anyone's feeling conspicuous should they leave because they were feeling uncomfortable. It was also suggested that it be made clear that real-world examples in the debates were fine, but that people should be mindful that real-world issues affect people in the real world, potentially including those present.

Sophie also suggested that the committee's policy with respect to potential issues be that the Inclusivity Policy be upheld, with respect to its content, as strictly as ever, but that the warnings given should be less severe, bearing in mind that in the heat of debate people could sometimes say things without thinking them through.

It was noted that platypi are weird. It was queried whether or not "platipi" is the correct plural of "platypus".

14c)ii) *Format of debate*

It was noted that there had been disagreements over how much the chair should intervene at Butterbeer and Banter, in order to balance a free conversation with allowing everyone's voice to be heard, bearing in mind that not all attendees necessarily feel comfortable with interrupting someone else who is trying to speak. It was agreed that the chair should be reasonably *laissez-faire*, except with regard to content (as described above), but should, towards the end of the debate, ask for contributions from those who had not yet spoken. It was noted that, as the dominating voices tended to be regular members, the committee should ask them in advance, where possible, to be mindful of this and to check themselves throughout the debate. **Action: Lily to contact regular members.**

15. QPay

It was noted that the Society had been contacted by a payment-management service known as QPay. Lily noted that she had also been contacted by a similar service known as Cashew. It was queried whether or not the Society needed such a system, and it was queried what the difference was between the two systems. It was noted that, as there was likely not to be any imminent need for such a system, it was sensible to take time to consider the options. **Action: Lily to investigate both systems further and report back to the next meeting.**

16. Merch

16a) Reorder of existing stash

It was agreed that the mugs needed to be re-ordered, and that at some point so did the badges. The badges needed amending so that the blue on the Ravenclaw badge was bluer, and the yellow on the Hufflepuff one was darker. It was noted that surplus badges from Freshers' Fair had been on sale at the Cake with the Committee event that day, but that not many had been sold, and it was noted that they would be on sale again at the Sorting. It was agreed that 500 more badges would be needed eventually, though with fewer Hufflepuff ones as there was a large surplus. **Action: Alex to order more mugs.**

16b) Pride badges

Sophie proposed, and Alex seconded, that Pride badges be made with the rainbow flag behind the Society logo. It was questioned whether this would be making a political statement, which would be inappropriate for the Society; it was noted that Sophie had intended to personally commission the badges, although Alex pointed out that, as the logo is the intellectual property (and the symbol) of the Society such personal commissions should not be made unless the Society would be willing to commission them itself. In response to the point that support for LGBTQ rights was now sufficiently mainstream as a view to not be a political statement, and that in any case it was a statement already being made in our Inclusivity Policy, the point was raised that a statement of support for LGBTQ rights above any other equality issue could be considered a political statement. Alex suggested that the issue could perhaps be avoided by distributing the badges at around the time of Oxford Pride, to which it was generally agreed that that would itself very definitely be a political statement.

It was agreed that the badges would be reasonable if similar badges could be made for other equality issues. **Action: Sophie to research possible designs.**

It was noted that the television screens in the meeting venue were playing a music video station which had just opted to play "Blurred Lines" by Robin Thicke feat. T.I. and Pharrell.

17. Any other business

Lily noted that she had sent out the first email to the Society mailing list. It was pointed out that the email was long, and that relevant practical information was somewhat difficult to find; it was suggested that this information be placed in bold in future emails. **Action: Lily to amend emails.**

The issue of the house points system was raised. It was agreed that the system of weighting the totals by house membership would be discontinued, and that instead events, where practical and sensible, would be individually weighted based on attendance, and otherwise left unweighted.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.