

SUSS-EX CLUB STEERING GROUP
Minutes of the 21st meeting
Friday 11 November 2011 at 5pm
DARO Meeting Room, Bramber House

0. Members present

Bob Benewick (BB), Sue Bullock (SB), Jackie Fuller (JF), Charles Goldie (CG), Arnold Goldman (AG), Adrian Peasgood (AP), Jennifer Platt (JP), David Smith (DS) and Ken Wheeler (KW).

Chairing and Minute taking

AP agreed to chair and AG to minute the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Gordon Conway (GC) and Steve Pavey (SP).

2. Minutes of the 20th meeting held on 17 June 2011

The Minutes were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters arising not elsewhere specified on the Agenda

There were none.

4. Financial report

JF circulated and presented a report. (Attached to the minutes; JF to forward to GC and SP). £423.59 carried forward to 2011/12 "masks" that JF had resisted *any* event being run at a loss. There was a surplus for each event in 2010/11. The result represents Suss-Ex's largest end-of-year balance. There were no questions and thanks were tendered to JF.

5. Programme

- 5.1 People had been happy with Sir Harold Kroto's talk. It had required lobbying and arm-twisting to plump up the audience numbers. (See JF's Note, item 6).
- 5.2 100+ had attended the 50th birthday event organised by Suss-Ex. The audience was engaged and the event had given Sussex-Ex credit with the University, which we would draw upon (CG is due to meet the Registrar.)
- 5.3 Obituaries: DS described the progress in relation to Chemistry (11 new, 3 more will make it complete). Editing is being done to ensure fairness. FRSs need only a list of references to published obituaries except where contributions to Sussex will be added. For Non-FRSs, these obituaries may be the only record of academic achievement and contribution. Extending this work to other subjects was discussed: eg Mathematics. Physics & Astronomy have a wiki, to which anyone can contribute. DS will write about the obituary project for the next Newsletter. AG asked whether we should wait for deaths (cp. quality papers).
- 5.4 Kay Andrews's talk tonight. See JF's Note (item 6). CG had invited the V-C and Registrar who were unable to attend. JF's action had saved the situation in respect of numbers generally. Supper in "Dine Central" on level 1 would be "a bit more upmarket".
- 5.5 Theatre visits to the Theatre Royal were in train for *Henry V* and *Spamalot*. Nothing further was currently planned. JP would consult the programme and liaise with the Newsletter. AP reported on two amateur theatre groups in Brighton, one to perform *Hedda Gabler* (in March), the other David Hare's *The Permanent Way* (late February, about rail privatisation). AP and JP would liaise.
- 5.6 The Suss-Ex and staff association Christmas party will be held at 1230pm-2pm on Tuesday 13 December. SB will organise. The usual Steering Group participation is assumed.
- 5.7 CG reported that the University would offer Suss-Ex a screening of *Golden Opportunity*, the 50-minute documentary made for the University's 50th. We will think about providing tea & biscuits. We need to agree a date, time and place with the University relating the date to other elements of our programme, and to publicise this in the Newsletter or (if necessary) a separate mailing. CG will ask for specimen days and we will proceed from there.

6. Jackie Fuller's Note (circulated – CG to note: not for web publication)

The Steering Group had Jackie Fuller's Note before it. A preliminary discussion was held but it would be *continued* at the next Steering Group meeting. Points made and questions asked today concerned: the financial aspect (loss if undersubscribed); the embarrassment of a too-small audience, to organiser (even demoralising), speaker, Suss-Ex; were we too ambitious in speakers; did we need to have dinners (which put the finances at risk); poor usual response to publicity (before arm-twisting); walks had been cancelled; JF was stepping down as organiser; the mechanics were not difficult (cp. stress and anxiety); the work involved seemed excessive to the enjoyment; should we suspend the whole model of a Suss-Ex Club; what data did we have to reach a decision; what would our presumed constituency prefer (if anything).

7. Publicity

Publicity for Suss-Ex will be discussed at the next meeting. Points made today concerned: not renewing our constituency, an article for the Bulletin which hasn't happened. JP's offer to draft something was accepted, perhaps using the Kay Andrews talk as a hook. She will circulate a draft in the next few weeks.

8. Titles

CG and DS had met the new DVC over this long-running sore. The ball was now in that court.

9. Suss-Ex Membership

People had been mysteriously removed from the list, a "rejoiners" list had been created. 180 on the emeritus list are not on our list. We need to "nail HR". CG and an ex-administrator – CG will ask SP to join him – will progress this.

10. Newsletter

DS will edit the next Newsletter. There are 10 days for contributions with 22 November as the copy deadline. We need to advertise the Christmas party.

11. AOB

There was no AOB.

12. Date of next meeting

The next Steering Group meeting was agreed for 4.30pm on a mid-January date to be determined after consulting GC. We'd offer 13 or 20 January.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.05pm.

Recent minutes (and succeeding agenda)

April 2010	Arnold Goldman
Nov 2010	Charles Goldie
Jan 2011	Adrian Peasgood
May 2011	Arnold Goldman (mins only)
June 2011	Ken Wheeler
Nov 2011	Arnold Goldman

Recent Newsletter editors

May 2010	Jennifer Platt
Nov 2010	Adrian Peasgood
Feb 2011	Jennifer Platt/Charles Goldie
May 2011	David Smith
Sept 2011	Charles Goldie
Dec 2011	David Smith