

SUSS-EX CLUB STEERING GROUP
Minutes of the 22nd meeting,
in the DARO meeting room
at 5.00 p.m. on Friday 6th January, 2012

Minute taking: Adrian Peasgood

Present:

Bob Benewick, Gordon Conway (chairman), Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, Steve Pavey, Adrian Peasgood, Jennifer Platt, David Smith.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sue Bullock, Arnold Goldman, Ken Wheeler.

2. Minutes of the 21st meeting: approved.

3. Matters arising: none not elsewhere mentioned.

4 Future programme:

(a) general policy

Resumed discussion of JF's paper, presented at the previous meeting, concerning 'talk-with-meal' events in the Suss-Ex programme. Noted that 'spontaneous' bookings were seldom enough to warrant an external speaker (or to break even financially), and that over much canvassing of support was needed, which largely fell upon the organiser. Some resulting audiences were much wider than the Suss-Ex constituency, and it seemed inappropriate for committee volunteers to be managing broader events. Some attenders, and some committee members, felt that the 'Town and Gown' model, in which rather similar functions were organised by Sussex House, would be worth reviving. In future, however, Suss-Ex would promote 'talk-with-meal' events only opportunistically, not offering one per term as in the past. Other kinds of activity would continue as heretofore, not forgetting its role as an interest group.

(b) already agreed

Mid February (date tbc). Theatre visit: Hare's 'The permanent way' at New Venture Theatre, Brighton. (AP)

(c) new

30 March or 13 April. Film 'A golden opportunity' (made for the UOS 50th anniversary) to be shown at a campus venue, 1600 hours, followed by tea at 1700. (CG)

In due course. Theatre Royal visit(s) when suitable programme is offered (JP); tour of new buildings on campus, and/or something associated with opening of Attenborough Centre (SP)

5. Interaction with University Administration

(a) CG and SP reported on their meeting with the Registrar, 1.12.2011. The Suss-Ex contribution to the anniversary weekend had been appreciated, and there remained a supportive view overall, with a promise to assist in resolving difficulties in use of the personnel database to assist with Suss-Ex recruitment.

(b) No action yet on earlier promise by Deputy VC to review issues related to honorary and emeritus titles. CG/DS to pursue.

6. Publicity

An article by JP had been published in the Bulletin, albeit much edited. A follow up in the summer term, when retirements would often be imminent, was desirable. Various members reported non-receipt of the Bulletin; mailing list problems appeared likely to be the cause.

7. Reports

(a) Recent events

11 November. Baroness Andrews's talk. Well attended, but only because of personal invitations initiated by JF beyond the Suss-Ex constituency. General approval of the use of Dine Central for the following supper.

13 December. Christmas party, with USPAS. Sue Bullock to report at next meeting.

5 January. 'Spamalot' at the Theatre Royal.

(b) Financial report

Not available at the meeting, but circulated subsequently

(c) Obituaries/life histories

DS reported on achievements in coverage of Chemistry staff. Other subjects should be encouraged to follow suit, noting that the emphasis was normally intended to be on contributions to the development of the subject at Sussex rather the discipline more widely; some semi-promises had been made. The Chemistry initiative had produced information about photographs held privately rather than institutionally, and arrangements not to lose track of such material should be made.

8. Newsletter

DS agreed to prepare the next issue. Contributions deadline mid-February, with publication by the end of the month.

9. AOB

None.

10. Date of next meeting

To follow the showing of 'A golden opportunity' and associated tea (see 4c above), target time 1800 hours. Venue to be arranged, but close to that for the film.

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