

SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 53rd Steering Group meeting
Friday 4th September 2020 at 5 pm, hosted on Zoom

1. Host and Chair

RD hosted the meeting using our paid-for Zoom subscription, just taken out. **PST** took the chair.

1. Present

Rossana Dowsett (**RD**), Jackie Fuller (**JKF**), Colin Finn (**CBPF**), Charles Goldie (**CMG**), Arnold Goldman (**AMG**), Steve Pavey (**SPCP**), Adrian Peasgood (**ANP**), David Smith (**JDS**), Paul Tofts (**PST**) and Helen Walker (**HJW**), all welcomed by **PST**. Sara Hinchliffe (**SJH**) joined the meeting by invitation.

2. Minutes of the 52nd Meeting, of 5th June 2020

Approved.

3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

None.

4. Finance

JKF reported an unaltered credit balance. The Zoom subscription of £119 plus VAT will come out of this.

5. Recent event

(a) *Picnic on campus*

A great success. Threatened rain perhaps kept some away. Thanks to **PST** for the idea and to **RD** for developing it and organising the event.

6. Planned future events

(a) *Zoom talk by Alexandra Loske, with discussion*

She has many possible topics. Her book *111 Places in Brighton & Lewes That You Shouldn't Miss*, and a current exhibition on women photographers, seemed the most promising. Timing: mid-October, starting 4 pm–5 pm. **SPCP** and **HJW** will organise, advised by **JDS**.

(b) *Christmas Party with USPAS*

SPCP will contact Tracey Llewellyn, as it is essentially down to USPAS whether to hold a Party and what form it might take. The chance is probably below 50%.

7. Possible future events

(a) *Quiz*

The Alumni Office recently ran an online quiz, and **RD** has obtained its questions and results. Our own version could involve teams in (virtual) breakout rooms. This could be a good end-of-year activity, especially if the Christmas Party does not happen.

(b) *Zoom talk*

SJH asked on what basis we choose a talk (collective answer: whatever will fly!). A debate between Dave Goulson and Francis Ratnieks would be a coup, celebrating Sussex's exceptional bipartite expertise in bee science. **SJH** will investigate.

(c) *Fishbourne Roman Palace*

The site opened on 22nd August. **RD** has enquired if they are still doing group visits. We will keep that in mind for next Spring.

continued ...

(d) Other possible tours

The Dome building work, Shoreham harbour, Rampion windfarm, Ridgeview: we should keep these in mind for next Spring.

8. Membership

(a) The mailing list and the Facebook Group

Agreed that those on the mailing list and those in the Facebook Group should equally be regarded as Members of Suss-Ex. Eligibility is checked in either case. When those in the Facebook Group also join the mailing list they do not always supply a postal address, but we can do without one as they can be contacted through Facebook Messenger.

(b) Facebook members joining the mailing list

CMG contacted recent new members of the Facebook Group to invite them also to join the mailing list, and some had done so.

(c) Publicity

The sign-up form and the flyer about Suss-Ex for those retiring have been updated and combined as one A4 sheet; thanks to **RD** and **JKF** for seeing to that. **JKF** was successful in placing an item about Suss-Ex in the 28th August edition of the weekly *This is Sussex* (formerly *Bulletin/Staff Bulletin*): see

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/newsandevents/?id=52573>.

(d) Members who give no e-mail address

CMG wrote requesting an e-mail address from the members of the mailing list for whom we do not currently have one. Resource constraints in the Alumni Office unfortunately prevented the recipients being sent an accompanying paper copy of the current Newsletter. The letter elicited some responses, enabling the addition or restoration of some of these members to the e-mail mailing list. After discussion it was agreed that a postal circular to those for whom we have no valid e-mail is manageable once a year or so, and would continue to be needed because e-mails can be returned as undelivered and it is worth then making an attempt at contact by other means.

(e) Steering Group

SJH agreed to join the Steering Group and was welcomed in after a motion proposed by **SPCP**, seconded by **RD** and carried by acclaim.

10. Newsletter

Main content will be the Zoom event proposed above, as soon as that is fixed. It will be important to have an early indication about the Christmas Party (**SPCP**). **RD** will draft a report on the Picnic.

11. Other business

(a) Suss-Ex Zoom account

Thanks to **RD** for setting up the account. She will circulate us with the details, so that any of us can host a Suss-Ex Zoom meeting.

(b) Further publicity

SJH will advertise Suss-Ex to her contacts. **CMG** will advertise Suss-Ex to those made Emeritus Professor or Reader this year.

13. Next meeting

Friday 30th October, 5 pm, on Zoom; **CMG** to host it.