

SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 56th Steering Group meeting
Friday 5th March 2021 at 5 pm, online

1. Welcome

Paul Tofts chaired the virtual meeting, hosted on Zoom by Ross Dowsett. Also present were Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, Arnold Goldman, Sara Hinchliffe, Steve Pavey, Adrian Peasgood, David Smith and Helen Walker.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Minutes of the 55rd Meeting, of 18th December 2020

Approved.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

None.

5. Finance

Jackie reported our credit balance and circulated a sheet (appended to the Minutes) summarising the Club's financial flows from its foundation in 2006 to the present. As noted previously, our current balance is of the order of one (normal) year's turnover, and is needed at that level to give us flexibility in pricing any paid-for events. **Ross** volunteered to ask DARO to allow us to use the University's Zoom subscription, under DARO's auspices or sponsorship.

6. Dr Alexandra Locke's Zoom talk on 28th January

Steve reported that around 50 'attended' and comments in our Facebook Group were uniformly positive.

We discussed whether online events should continue when in-person meetings are again possible, and agreed that a sprinkling of online offerings, building on expertise gained, would be good, to bring in non-local members and those reluctant to go out to a meeting, but that it was essential eventually to re-start in-person events as the social aspect was a vital part of Suss-Ex.

Dr Loske's talk was not recorded. She would not have been in principle against it but would have had to check the copyright position on the images she showed.

We noted that recording of any future meeting would need the prior consent of the speaker. We could consider following other societies by making a recording available on our Facebook site for a limited period, say a week. Such recordings would not be kept, as investment in storage would be needed for the very large files involved.

7. Zoom talk on honeybees by Professor Francis Ratnieks

All is on course for 17th March at 5 pm. **Sara** will ask the speaker about recording his talk. If agreed, its availability on our Facebook site will help get people to the site.

8. Possible future events

- **Jackie** will compile and circulate a list of all the events that Suss-Ex has put on.
- We must keep in mind reinstating our cancelled Christmas Quiz, for which all preparatory work was done.
- **Sara** suggested putting on something that can be quickly organised, such as a small-group guided walk.

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- **Ross** reported that Martyn Stenning would do a repeat campus Boundary Walk, if he is in this country, and she also has an alternative leader. A campus walk could be an addition to a summer picnic.

Steve suggested a guided Lewes walk, best to take place when participants can adjourn to an open-air café. The walk could cover for instance the Railway Lands, the Cluniac Priory ruins, or industrial archaeology. A walk leader could be found through the Lewes History Group or personal contacts.

David will contact his speaker on the topic *How Do Surgeons Think?* over a possible reinstatement of the talk planned for 31st March last year. David also suggested a talk by our member Norman Billingham on plastics in the world of art.

9. Membership

(a) Mailing list

Charles promised again to contact recent recruits to our Facebook Group to invite them also to join the mailing list.

(b) Facebook Group

Jackie reported that the Group now has 111 members. While Facebook is a popular way for members to interact with Suss-Ex, it is not for everyone. **Ross** will circulate the Steering Group with a short guide on how to avoid receiving more e-mails from Facebook than one wishes.

10. Publicity

Kate O'Connell of DARO had contacted us to report that the current method of e-mail circulation of our Newsletter is no longer to be supported by IT services. DARO proposes instead to assemble our Newsletters, as HTML, from text and photos submitted by us, and circulate them in the body of an e-mail, not as an attachment. Our Newsletter format, over-prominent in obituaries, in any case is due for review.

We will welcome circulation of the Newsletter in the body of the e-mail, as our former contact in DARO, Sarah Brown, used to do. We need to continue carrying obituaries, as *This is Sussex* takes few and there are doubts over it being archived reliably; the solution to preponderance of obituaries is surely to lighten them by other content and more of it. Ideas for new content include *Where are they now?* features, and short video insertions, though the latter could not be retained in an archived PDF version.

Adrian commented that new technical requirements were not for him as editor. Agreed that **Ross** will convene a subgroup to consider (a) the new submission regime and (b) new content, in order to prepare a consultative mock-up of our next Newsletter.

11. Next Newsletter

Material for our next Newsletter to be sent to **Ross** for inclusion in the mock-up.

12. Other business

None

13. Next meeting

Provisionally fixed for Friday 4th June 2021 at 5 pm; **Charles** to set up the Zoom meeting.