

# The Philosophical Society

## Minutes of the 2010 AGM

held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2009, in the Lecture Theatre at Rewley House, Oxford

**Present:** Marianne Talbot President  
Tom Fisher Chairman  
Peter Gibson Secretary  
Eileen Walker Treasurer  
committee members, and other members

**Apologies:** Chris Farmer (committee member)

1. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.
2. **The President:** The year has been very successful, for the Society, and for the philosophy department at Rewley House. Bookings for philosophy weekends are on the increase, and philosophy is one of the subjects which makes a profit. A new online ethics course is on its way, but it costs £15,000 to create a new course. A number of 'success stories' had been passed from the Society to the department, for use in internal campaigning (stories of numerous members who have used the weekends as a stepping-stone to higher studies and achievements in philosophy). In the background, however, are major financial worries in higher education, which could have an impact on the weekends, and on the Society. The subsidy for courses has now declined to zero.
3. **The Chairman:** The year was rated as fairly successful. There has been the usual sequence of excellent weekends, organised by the President, and Members' Day was agreed by all to have gone very well. The Friday group is active in Oxford, and the Google discussion group is very lively, but there is little discussion through the website. The Review has been seriously delayed this year.
4. **Secretary:** We have 236 members, which continues the slow but steady increase. There are now about 160 members on the Secretary's email list, and this must now be the main means of communication with the Society, despite the missing 76 members. An appeal was made for the missing email addresses. It was suggested that the appeal should appear regularly in the Review, and that the appeal might be bulk-texted to mobile phones.
5. **Treasurer:** The accounts were submitted. There has been a discrepancy between the membership annual cycle (Jan-Dec) and the financial accounting cycle (Oct-Sept), so an adjustment was agreed, with both cycles now being January-to-December. We are no longer able to get the benefits of holding our account in the Channel Islands, and the cost of the Review has increased. A few bursaries have been awarded (to subsidise the cost of a weekend), and these are available on request to the Treasurer. The accounts were accepted.
6. **Review:** Apologies were offered for the delay in the 2009 Review. There had been unexpected difficulties with unfamiliar software features, but the Review was now almost ready for the printers, in a 96 page draft.
7. **Website Manager:** The new manager of the website reported that the site has now been transferred to a site in USA, and runs under the Linux system. The cost has halved as a result, and much of the site is now being automated and future-proofed. The previous website manager thoroughly approved of these developments. A notable feature is the international character of the website traffic, with Russia, China, Spain and the Ukraine featuring prominently.
8. **Recordings Librarian:** The huge task of transferring into MP3 format the large library of tape recording of past weekends, going back many years, has now been completed. There is a list of the recordings on the website, and the librarian much prefers dealing with emails, rather than traditional post, when distributing copies to members.
9. **Members' Day 2010:** Phil Rees is running this event, and the agreed subject area is epistemology. The probable date of the event will be Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The starting time was discussed, involving concerns about parking, and will be announced at a later date.
10. **Election of Officers:** The *Secretary*, *Treasurer*, *Website Manager* and *Recordings Manager* were re-elected. David Hunt will continue to oversee the *Chadwick Prize*. The post of *Review Editor* was left open for the time being. The post of *Communications Officer* will cease, but Christian Michel will take a lead in *International Communications*. Phil Rees, Patrick Butterly and David Seed were elected to join the *Committee*.

**Next AGM:** January 15<sup>th</sup> 2011