

The Rewley House Philosophical Society

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

held on Saturday 15th January 2011, 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: Phil Rees, Christian Michel, Steve Chinn

1. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.
2. **Officers:** Tom Fisher concludes his term of office as Chairman, and Mike Donnan, Phil Rees and David Seed conclude their time on the Committee. Chris Farmer was proposed and elected as the new Chairman. The Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster, International Representative, Review Editor and Recording Librarian were re-elected. Four new members were elected to the Committee, which is now as follows:

President: Marianne Talbot **Chairman:** Chris Farmer (2011-13) **Secretary:** Peter Gibson

Treasurer: Eileen Walker **Website:** Mike Arnautov **Review:** Steve Chinn

International: Christian Michel **Recordings:** Bill Ratcliffe

Elected: (2010-12) Patrick Butterly, (2011-13) Chris Lyons, Peter Ells, Jeanne Bliss, Frank Brierley

Co-Opted (for one year): David Hunt (Chadwick Prize), Peter Townsend (Friday evenings)

3. **The President:** Philosophy continues to flourish at Rewley House, as one of the few subjects which *makes* money. The two podcasts by the President have now achieved **three million** hits online, giving Rewley House philosophy a significant worldwide presence. A survey is in preparation about the best way to organise the philosophy weekends.
4. **The Chairman:** Another very good year, in which particular successes have been the Review and the developments on the website. The meeting thanked Tom for his excellent service as Chairman.
5. **Secretary:** The Society now has 273 members (compared to 236 last year), which continues the steady expansion in size. A crucial step has been the implementation of online application and payment arrangements, which have encouraged applications, and eased the task of administration. We have about 220 email addresses, which is greatly enhancing the distribution of significant information. There will be a mailing as usual in the early summer, with a newsletter.
6. **Treasurer:** We have closed the offshore account. We now have a PayPal account for online credit and debit card payments. The subscription cycle has now become individualised, thanks to the website and modern technology. The accounting cycle is now January to December, to suit the timing of the AGM. The sale of the books of the late Philip Manning at a weekend raised £286 for charity. A copy of the accounts was submitted to the meeting, and accepted. We were reminded that the Society can pay bursaries to help with fees for philosophy weekends, and applications should be made in confidence to the Treasurer.
7. **Review:** In the absence of the Editor, the meeting expressed general delight with this year's Review.
8. **Website Manager:** The Members' Day pages are fully implemented, with audio and written records of the talks, as well as all bookings being handled online. In handling members' subscriptions to the Society, PayPal has been more successful than expected, with the majority of new joiners using it. International payments are now very much cheaper and simpler. An International page has now been added to the site. A 'deferred mail' system is also available, for sending out automatic notifications. The Forum has picked up, with more than twice as many post this year. Previous editions of the Review will be going online, with controlled access. The question was raised of whether we might elicit a bit more information from new members when they join.
9. **Recordings Librarian:** The huge library of recordings of past weekends, with talks by many notable philosophers, is now available to members, with a list on the website. The Committee needs to discuss the question of copyright on the older recordings. Full backups on CD were handed over to the Secretary.
10. **Members' Day 2011:** Peter Gibson is running the event, and the agreed subject is philosophy itself, under the working title '*Philosophy – What's the Point?*'. The date of the event will be Saturday 3rd September 2010, starting at lunchtime. Accommodation at Rewley House will be available on the Saturday night. The format will be roughly as last year, and volunteers to speak will be sought.

Next AGM: January 14th 2012