

**The Rewley House Philosophical Society**  
**Minutes of the 2012 AGM [draft, unratified]**

held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012, in the Lecture Theatre at Rewley House, Oxford

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

**Apologies:** Mike Arnautov

1. The minutes of the previous AGM were accepted.
2. **Officers:** The officers of the Society were re-elected en bloc. Patrick Butterly ended his term on the Committee, and David Jones was elected to join the Committee, serving from 2012-2014. Chris Lyons, a Committee member, took on the role of Inspector of Accounts. The post of Communications Officer was left in place, but unfilled. David Hunt and Peter Townsend were co-opted to the Committee for a further year. Steve Chinn stepped down as Editor of the Review (and appreciation was expressed for the fine job he has done). Chris Farmer takes over as Review Editor, and will form a small Review sub-committee, including the Treasurer. The Committee is as follows:

**President:** Marianne Talbot                      **Chairman:** Chris Farmer (2011-13)                      **Secretary:** Peter Gibson  
**Treasurer:** Eileen Walker                      **Website:** Mike Arnautov                      **[Review:** Chris Farmer]  
**International:** Christian Michel                      **Recordings:** Bill Ratcliffe  
**Elected:** (2011-13) Chris Lyons (Inspector of Accounts), Peter Ells, Frank Brierley, (2012-14) David Jones  
**Co-Opted (for one year):** David Hunt (Chadwick Prize), Peter Townsend (Friday evenings)

3. **The President:** The department at Rewley House is flourishing, and is profitable despite the withdrawal of all subsidies. New online courses in Critical Reasoning and in Philosophical Logic are to be created. It is hoped that there will be a one-day event for 25 members of the Society at a location in the Chilterns on 29<sup>th</sup> April.
4. **The Chairman:** General satisfaction was expressed with a good year for the Society.
5. **Secretary:** The Society now has 290 members, which continues the slow but steady expansion in size. This includes a small but growing number of overseas members. Most members have email addresses, though a significant number do not. We will continue the annual postal mailing in the summer of 2012.
6. **Treasurer:** The accounts for the year were presented and accepted. Agreement was sought (and given) for an increase in the fee for UK members in February 2012, from £12 to £15 p.a.. There is also a need for an 'Inspector' of the accounts, and Chris Lyons (a member of the Committee) agreed to take on this role. It was also agreed to give more publicity to the availability of bursaries to subsidise fees for weekends in appropriate cases.
7. **Review:** Warm thanks were expressed to Steve Chinn for his excellent work on the Review. Chris Farmer takes over as Editor, with a sub-committee to help. It was noted that the rules for the Chadwick Prize ought to be printed in the Review.
8. **Website Manager:** The Manager sent apologies, and a written message. The lecture recordings have been on the website since March, and since then 157 MP3 files have been mailed to members. This service is available to all members, at 'Events Archive' on the website. The member's email address must be recognised from the list held on the site. Many routine jobs for the Secretary and Treasurer, such as subscription reminders, have been automated (for which those two officers expressed their gratitude). Members' Day bookings were done through the website, and the PayPal facility is popular. The discussion Forum on the site, however, has been far less active this year, with 26 posts during the year. Usage of the website seems to have grown a little, with about 13,000 page accesses.
9. **Recordings Librarian:** The meeting was reminded that recordings can still be obtained in cassette or CD format, by contacting the Librarian, as well as in the MP3 format on the website.
10. **Members' Day 2012:** Chris Farmer is running the event, and has chosen the title for the day of '*Metaphysics – its structure and function*'. The date of the event will be Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012, from 1.30 to 9. Accommodation at Rewley House will be available on the Saturday night. Offers to speak are being sought.
11. **AOB:** It was suggested that we might use Twitter to publicise activities, and the Secretary agreed to investigate. Details were given of a proposal for a new tri-annual prize to be awarded by the Philosophical Society, to the best philosophical essays each term done by students of Rewley House courses. This was welcomed, and arrangements will proceed. There was also a proposal for a sub-committee to promote philosophy among young people, which was deferred for further discussion of written details. There was a feeling that greater use of email to notify members of forthcoming weekends and events would be welcomed.

**Next AGM:** On the Saturday of the philosophy weekend in mid-January 2013