

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 16 November 2010 at 6pm
In Room 503, Huxley Building, Imperial College, London, SW7 2AZ

Present: Roderick Rhys Jones (Chair), Bill Blackburn (Hon Treasurer), Riitta Soininen (Membership Secretary), Rita Leek, John Little, Paresh Parmar, Jill Cook (Administrator), Rodney Allen, Anne Allen, David Hattersley, Jim Cunningham, Hilary Temple, Ian Somerville, Amanda Callis, Paul Garwood, Sean Hackett, John Sheldon, Sandi Rhys Jones

1. Apologies for absence

1.1. Apologies had been received from Betty Kaes, Marc Winer, Peter Grootenhuis, Reginald Gourgey, John Davies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1. The minutes of the last AGM held on 17 November 2009 were read and approved.

3. Chairman's Report

3.1. The Chairman gave his report for the year 2009-2010, saying that Friends had had its most successful year to date, organising 12 events, maintaining high audience numbers and increasing membership by 60%. Friends had maintained its financial health and the size of donation to the Student Opportunities Fund.

The Annual Report is available in full on the Friends of Imperial College website.

3.2. The Chairman was asked whether Friends takes steps to attract wealthy local residents to the membership: he explained that advertisements were placed in local residents' magazines and newsletters (Brompton Quarterly, Kensington Association newsletter). The Chairman explained that there were funds available for promotion and that events were posted on websites and on Facebook and Linked-In.

3.3. The Chairman thanked members of the Committee for their support and help during the past year.

4. Hon Treasurer's Report

4.1. The Hon Treasurer reported that the cash at bank as at 31/8/10 was £12,784.82 and the income had increased compared with the previous year, although expenses were higher. It was recommended that members and guests should make best use of the recently implemented online booking and payment system to avoid unnecessary administrative costs. He reported that in general the financial status maintained a sound position.

The full report by the Hon Treasurer is available on the Friends of Imperial College website.

4.2. The Treasurer was asked for background information about the Friends' sponsor, Winton Capital Management. The Chairman explained that the company is a local financial company which funds students at Imperial College and has a wide interest in promoting science to society.

5. Election of Committee Members

5.1. There had not been any offers from any member to serve on the Committee. The Chairman explained that Friends usually held 5 Committee Meetings per annum.

6. Future Plans

6.1. The Chairman said that obviously some topics for lectures were more attractive than others and that well-known names attracted a larger audience. The dates for lectures were selected to fit in with College and school terms and public holidays and to ensure that the events were, if possible, reasonably spread out.

6.2. The membership was increasing steadily and the aim was to have a membership of 1000 by 2015.

6.3. A big step had been taken by merging the website and database and John Little was to be thanked and congratulated for doing this so successfully. Members and attendees would be encouraged to take responsibility for booking events.

6.4. The Committee had agreed to look into providing events outside College, for example a visit to the Diamond Light facility at Harwell and a visit to the scientific establishments in Berlin, as well as other visits to Europe. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge organise such visits and it might be possible to liaise with them to find suitable events which members of Friends could join. There was general approval of these ideas, provided there was sufficient interest from Friends.

6.5. Questionnaires were to be handed out at events to gauge opinion and reaction and to provide feedback for future event planning.

6.6. There was increasing co-operation with the O A D and there was to be a meeting with Sir Keith O'Nions, the new Rector. The College generally was most supportive of Friends.

7. Any Other Business

7.1. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 6.50pm