



MINUTES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4.30 p.m. Thursday 24th August 2023 Manchester Metropolitan University

The meeting commenced at 16.36.

In attendance: Geoff Levett (GL), Katie Holmes (KH), Dil Porter (DP), Raf Nicholson (RN), Kay Schiller (KS), Pearse Reynolds (PR), Luise Elsaesser (LE), Matt McDowell (MM), Lydia Furse (LF), Lisa Taylor (LT), Richard Boddie, Nigel Hancock (NH), Malcolm Maclean (MMac), Carol Osborne (CO), Barbara Horley, Matt Taylor (MT), Paul Wheeler (PW), Martin Polley, Heather Dichter, Alex Jackson (AJ), Margaret Roberts, Sam Oldfield and c. 30 further members.

1) Welcome and apologies

The Vice-Chair welcomed members to the meeting. There were apologies from Conor Hefernan (CH), Amanda Callan-Spenn (AC-S) and Andy Carter (AC).

2) Previous minutes: De Montfort University, 25th August 2022

GL amended the date of last year's meeting from 25th August 2021 to 25th August 2022. The minutes were proposed by MMac and seconded by PW and passed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3) Chair's report (CH, presented by KT).

KT channelled CH's thoughts if not his voice. CH wanted to thank all of the organisers of the conference, as well as the people who had organised panels.

He reported that following the successful initiative of waiving fees for PhDs and ECRs we now propose to grant funds to individuals to attend conferences in the future.

CH paid tribute to LE for her hard work as Membership Secretary and asked for people to come forward as Board members, no matter what stage of their career or whether they are Independent Researchers (IRs).

4) Editor-in-chief's report (KS).

KS gave a summary of his report, which can be found on the Society's website.

KS paid tribute to LT, George Kioussis, Rob Lake, Sam Oldfield, Souvik Naha and Alec Hurley as a strong editorial team.

He reported that a candidate isn't in place right now to replace him as Editor-in-Chief but that he hoped to find someone suitable very soon.

Submissions to the Journal are up year on year with a healthy backlog of articles to be published.

He was happy to say that in terms of impact the *Journal* outperforms the *IJHS*. The feedback on peer review was slightly less positive than last year and there are plans to improve the qualitative nature of soliciting that feedback. KS asked for further proposals for Special Issues in 2025/6, especially to increase the number of articles on under-represented research areas of our discipline. He was pleased to report that a collaboration between *SiH* and the *IJHS* with African scholars has received funding from the British Academy to run an International Writing Workshop.

5) Secretary's report (GL).

GL gave a summary of his report, which can be found on the Society's website. GL also commented on how smooth had been the transition to a new Chair, which was aided by CH's excellence in the role.

6) Treasurer's report (PR).

PR gave a summary of his report, which can be found on the Society's website. PR reported that the finances of the Society are very healthy and need to be reduced. Thanks to Kwasi Kwarteng's and Liz Truss's further destruction of the UK economy money is raining from the sky for those with cash reserves. The reduction is planned to be implemented by increasing the levels of grants and introducing new grants to support scholarship in our discipline. The Journal continues to have a positive effect on our cash flow.

7) Membership secretary's report (LE).

LE gave a summary of her report, which can be found on the Society's website. LE reported that membership is up slightly on the previous year. Niggles with SubHub should have been resolved now. LE would like to resign from her post and appealed to people to come forward as members of the Board.

8) ECR/PG/IR report (KT).

KT gave a summary of the reports on AC's behalf, which can be found on the website. The ECR/PG session of Conference went very well.

9) Independent Research Rep's report (KH)

KH gave a summary her report, which can be found on the website. KH thanked the IRs (30 of them) who responded to her survey which allowed her to get good quality feedback on their particular needs. KH thanked DP for helping her over the year. Initiatives are in hand to give bursaries and awards for IRs in line with existing funding available to PGs/ECRs. The Playing Pasts Prize has also been extended to IRs. More information and articles are now available on the website specifically aimed at IRs. RL asked KH to expand on her remarks on how language on the website could be more inclusive of IRs. KH pointed out that previously much of our publicity had been directed at PGs/ECRs.

LF highlighted a note of advice that said that in order to look professional speakers should use academic institutional branding in presentations, a practice which could act to demean those not working in academia. As such this year's name badges had no affiliation on them. This change was welcomed by those present.

10) EPQ Prize (KT)

KT reported that there had been 13 entries this year, which was very encouraging and thanked the judges. Details of the winner will be posted on the Society's website.

11) Aberdare Prize (Malcolm Maclean)

The books shortlisted were as follows:-

- Paul Darby, James Esson and Christian Ungruheal, *African football migration: Aspirations, experiences and trajectories* (Manchester University Press)
- Ali Donnelly, *Scrum Queens: The Story of Women's Rugby* (Pitch Publishing)
- Tom Humberstone, *Suzanne: The Jazz Age Goddess of Tennis* (Avery Hill)
- Alex Jackson, *Football's Great War: Association Football on the English Home Front, 1914-1918* (Pen & Sword Books)
- Hugh McLeod, *Religion and the Rise of Sport in England* (Oxford University Press)
- Souvik Naha, *Cricket, Public Culture and the Making of Postcolonial Calcutta* (Cambridge University Press)
- Duncan Stone, *Different Class: The Untold Story of English Cricket* (Repeater Books)

The winner would be announced prior to the Conference dinner. and posted on the Society's website.

13) Annual Conference 2024 (CH).

KT thanked Paul Wheeler and Max Portman for the work they had done for preparing the 2024 Conference. However, due to ongoing ructions at the University of Chichester the location is yet to be finalised.

If it takes place at the University of Chichester it will take place from 21st to 23rd August 2024.

14) BSSH Membership Board Elections – election of trustees.

KT stood for re-election as a Trustee to the Board and was asked to recuse herself from chairing the meeting while her fate was determined.

RN took over as temporary Chair.

A show of hands was taken on re-electing KT to the Board. Unanimously passed.

15) Any other business.

- a. MP brought up an event on rugby history to take place in Leicester on 22nd November with a galaxy of speakers that is being part-funded by BSSH and invited all to attend. There will be no charge.

There was no other business.

KT wrapped up the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting ended at 17.15.

Treasurer's report for BSSH AGM, August 2023

This report presents a **Financial Statement for the 12 month period ended on 30 June 2023**, including a balance sheet showing the Society's net assets and reserves at that date.

Balance sheet at 30 June 2023

The Society's financial position is strong with net assets of £96,560, made up of the Birley bequest of £20,000 and operating reserves of £76,560. This takes account of the modest surplus of £634 for the year. The trustees aim is to reduce reserves steadily in the medium term, by increasing disbursements in the form of awards, research grants and support for events related to the Society's interest areas. The trustees will welcome suitable applications: information is available on the Society's website and from any trustee.

Income and expenditure account

Income has remained steady, but outgoings have increased, partly due to increases in awards, grants and bursaries.

Publishing income remains strong due to the continuing success of the Society's journal, Sport in History, and the increased sponsorship provided under the publishing contract signed in 2018. The trustees are grateful to Taylor & Francis for their continued support and sponsorship.

Membership income has increased slightly, reversing a small decline during the pandemic. The trustees hope to see growth in membership in the next few years as activity continues to recover. With this in mind, the trustees are holding membership fees at the same level that has applied for over a decade and which represents exceptional value for money. Lifetime membership is also available.

As in last year, there was an increase in **disbursements** in 22/23, supporting members and event organisers as activity recovered after the pandemic. The return to normality has brought us close to using all our annual income for the Society's objectives. Further growth in research and promotion activity in the field of Sports History will make good use of the reserves we have built up for that purpose.

Pearse Reynolds.

Treasurer

Statement of income and costs for the year ending 30 June 2023

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Subscriptions	5,437	5,051
Publication (Sport in History)	11,113	11,196
Other income	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total income	<u>16,550</u>	<u>16,247</u>
 <u>Costs</u>		
Awards and related costs	1,650	1,094
Event sponsorships and representation	1,990	2,675
Research grants and bursaries	4,180	2,697
Conference	0	2,665
Journal distribution	3,208	2,409
Editorial expenses (Sport in History)	3,500	1,409
Executive expenses	540	467
Other costs (Admin., IT, legal, Finance)	<u>848</u>	<u>463</u>
Total costs	<u>15,916</u>	<u>13,879</u>
 <u>Surplus/(deficit) for year</u>	 <u>634</u>	 <u>2,368</u>

Balance Sheet at 30 June 2023

	£	£	
<u>Assets</u>			
Cash at bank and on deposit at 30 June 2023	96,876		
Debtors	<u>783</u>	97,659	
Less Creditors		<u>1,099</u>	
Net assets		<u>96,560</u>	
 <u>Balanced by Reserves</u>			
Sir Derek Birley bequest		20,000	Note 1
Operating reserves brought forward	72,426		
PY adjustment to 20/21 grant accruals	3,500		Note 2
Surplus for year ended 30 June 2023	<u>634</u>	<u>76,560</u>	
Total Reserves		<u>96,560</u>	

Note 1: The Sir Derek Birley bequest is ring-fenced to provide a designated reserve for the Society's awards

Note 2: Prior year adjustments include the correction of an over-accrual of £2,000 for conference costs last year. In addition, the accrual basis for journal distribution has been changed from edition year to the period payment is billed.