

**Durham University Retired Staff Association
Annual General Meeting
24 June 2014**

Present: The Chairman of DURSA, Dr KJ Orford, in the chair, Mrs Dorothy Anson, Professor JH Anstee, Dr DT Clark, Dr Margaret P Collins, Dr PDB Collins, Mr TC Doloughan, Professor BS Gower, Dr AJ Heesom, Miss JM Kenworthy, Mr D Kleinman, Mr JC Lumsden, Miss Margaret S McCollum, Professor J Ann Moss, Mr FW Pritchard, Professor PJ Rhodes, Dr IM Stewart, Dr WR Telford, Professor AR Townsend, Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale and Mr WB Woodward.

In addition to the members of DURSA there were present as observers Mrs Angela Anstee, Mrs Diana Gower, Mrs Gill Heesom, Mrs Liz Kleinman, Mrs Jean Orford, Mrs Pamela Stewart, Dr Andrena Telford, Mr Bruno Van Dyk, Mr David Williams and Mrs Muriel Woodward.

The above were later joined for dinner by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Higgins, the Chief Operating Officer, Miss Paulina Lubacz, and Professor BH Bransden.

Minutes

8 Minutes

The Minutes of the Inaugural General meeting held on 8 July 2013 were approved.

9 Matter Arising from the Minutes

Minute 5 - Membership of the Committee

Reported:

a) That in accordance with the agreement that, in the absence of nominations, the then current Committee should remain in being with a somewhat fluid membership and using co-option to achieve a more representative composition, three new members had agreed to be co-opted to serve on the Committee and Emeritus Professors JI Clarke and Sir Arnold Wolfendale had resigned from the Committee.

b) That accordingly the membership of the Committee during the year had been as follows:

Dr KJ Orford – Chairman

Emeritus Professor JI Clarke – Vice- Chairman - until October 2013

Dr IM Stewart – Secretary

Mr FW Pritchard – Treasurer

Mrs D Anson - co-opted from January 2014 Emeritus Professor JH Anstee

Mr Clive Doloughan - co-opted from October 2013

Dr AJ Heesom

Miss Margaret S McCollum - co-opted from October 2013

Emeritus Professor J Ann Moss - Vice-Chairman - co-opted from October 2013

Emeritus Professor Sir Arnold Wolfendale - until February 2014

10 Annual Report

Acknowledgements

The Chairman expressed members' gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his initiative and Impetus in establishing DURSA and to the Chief Operating Officer for her invaluable help in finalising the arrangements for the Association. He thanked the members of the Alumni Relations Office (DARO), Bruno van Dyk, David Williams and Tim Guinan for all their help. Mr Guinan had dealt patiently with the numerous booking and registration problems but was now moving to a different post in the University. The Chairman also expressed his appreciation of the help received from all the colleges and departments which had been involved in the Association's 2013-14 programme and thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their efforts.

The Committee

The Committee had met regularly during the year and had welcomed the steady and continuing implementation of registration arrangements and the privileges for members. Efforts had been made to simplify processes, to rationalise references to DURSA in University documents and to improve the website. Further simplification was a goal. The Committee was very grateful for the co-operation and help of the DARO staff. An agreement on sharing data had been signed with the University. Consideration was being given to the best ways for DURSA to support the University in its work.

Membership

When the AGM agenda had been sent out in May there had been 151 registered members of DURSA. That was fewer than had been hoped. With the help of USS recent steps had been taken to contact those retired staff who might not have been aware of DURSA or who, as a result of still working part-time, might have considered that they were not qualified to join. The outcome had been a very substantial increase in registered members. The total of members had reached to 243 that morning. The eligibility criterion was retiring from Durham to draw a University of Durham or USS pension irrespective of continuing to work part-time. The University had agreed to a category of associate membership carrying purely social benefits for the spouses or partners of deceased members or of eligible staff who died before DURSA was established. This could be extended to a few staff who, after a long connection with the University, had left before retirement but had later returned to the area.

Special arrangements had been made for a few members without email access.

Events during the Year

Following on from the Art Tours of the Palatine Building in the summer of 2013, a number of DURSA events had been arranged:

A visit to and tour of Josephine Butler College on 14 November 2013 attended by 11 members and friends.

A pre-Christmas Get-Together in the Lindisfarne Centre, St Aidan's College, on 12 December 2013 attended by 23 members and friends.

A visit to the Physics Department on Wednesday 12 February 2014 attended by 23 members and friends.

A visit on Wednesday 4 March 2014, guided by Henry Dyson, to view the Art at the Business School attended by 21 members and friends, eighteen of whom stayed to lunch at the School.

A visit on Friday 6 June to County Hall to hear a talk on the County Plan and enjoy a buffet lunch there attended by 13 members and friends.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner on Tuesday 24 June 2014 in the Business School.

Events were now being costed to cover the cost of payment by credit card and to leave a small margin to build up a balance to act as a cushion and as the nucleus of a good causes fund.

Future Events

The following further events had now been arranged or were in the process of being finalised: Thursday 4 September 2014 - Visit to the Bowes Museum including a tour of the Library not normally open to the public.

(In view of the low response so far it was agreed at the meeting to defer the visit to the Bowes Museum until after Easter 2015)

Wednesday 29 October 2014 - Visit to Queen's Campus - mid-morning to mid-afternoon

Tuesday 16 December 2014 - Pre Christmas get-together with drinks and nibbles early evening in the Lindisfarne Centre, St Aidan's

Wednesday 18 February 2015 - afternoon visit to Archaeology

Wednesday 18 March 2015 - Visit to Police HQ, Aykley Heads

Wednesdays 15 or 22 April - Visit to Harrison & Harrison Organ Factory (dates not yet finalised)

(following the decision above, late April or May 2015 - Visit to Bowes Museum)

Friday 15 May - Visit to Netpark

Tuesday 16 June 2015 - AGM and Dinner

(For discussion on future events see Minute 13 below)

11 Accounts

Reported: that the Association's accounts for 2013-14 as at 30 April 2014 were as follows:

Income		£
Sales i.e. payments for meals	1519.25	

DARO Supplement	180.00
	<u>1699.25</u>
Expenditure	£
Events	1451.02
VAT	<u>95.92</u>
	<u>1546.94</u>
	£
<u>Year-end Balance</u>	<u>152.31</u>

12 Membership of the Committee

a) Noted: That having been either elected in 2010 to bring DURSA into being or subsequently co-opted, the members of the current Committee had been anxious to regularise their position by standing for election and at the same time to bring Committee membership into conformity with the Constitution. In future it was intended that a third of the members would retire each year. The first such retirements would be determined by the drawing of lots.

b) Reported: That nominations had accordingly been invited for the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and for not more than three/five other members to take over from the current committee on 25 June 2014.

c) Reported: That the following nominations had been received:

For:

Chairman - Dr KJ Orford

Vice-Chairman - Professor J Ann Moss

Secretary - Dr IM Stewart

Treasurer - Mr FJ Pritchard

As Committee members:

Mrs Dorothy Anson

Profesor JH Anstee

Mr Clive Doloughan

Dr AJ Heesom

Miss Margaret McCollum

d) In the absence of other nominations the above were declared elected for one, two or three year periods of service, the actual periods for each member to be determined as above..

13 Future Activities.

a) During discussion the following suggestions were made for the Committee to take into account in planning future events:

An annual lecture although members tended to favour taking advantage of lectures in the programmes arranged by University Departments and Centres preferably by their being able to access the details easily from the DURSA website.

A biennial reunion to include members living away from Durham.

Problems of the elderly and research on ageing

Visits to local archaeological sites in the digging season e.g. Binchester

The tide of change in Education at all levels

- b) Noted: That the balance of opinion appeared to be in favour of the present pattern for the AGM of an evening meeting followed by a dinner. The possibility of a lunchtime meeting and buffet had been mentioned.

14 Any Other Business

a) Reported: That a member, Mr David Thornton, had suggested that DURSA should press the University to support the appeal to make permanent the 'Seaham Tommy', an impressive First World War Memorial temporarily installed in Seaham. He had noted that the Chancellor was a Seaham lad.

b) Agreed: that this was something that members might wish to support as individuals but not something which DURSA could take on itself at its current stage of development.

c) Reported: That members were likely to be invited to a fundraising event in the Business School on 30 September offering an opportunity to meet the Chancellor, Sir Thomas Allen.

IMS 26.6.14.