



Barnes Literary Society

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Wednesday
10th March 2010 at 9.30pm at the OSO

Present : Fiona Smith Chairman. Helen Willan Vice chairman
Claire Boyling Honorary Secretary David Minch Honorary Treasurer
Patrick Harvey, Lucy Hine, Sarah Kearney and William Mortimer.
Together with Isla Blair Patron and 40 Society members

Introduction by the Chairman

Fiona Smith welcomed members and referred to the Agenda, Statement of Accounts, copies of the Constitution and Minutes of the 2009 AGM which had been distributed to those present.

Apologies for Absence

Julian Glover and Jan Pienkowski

Minutes of AGM held on 18th March 2009

The minutes were proposed by Charles Goldsmith and seconded by Jean Otty as an accurate record. The resolution was passed on a show of hands

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman`s Report

Fiona Smith summarised key points from the report for year ending 2009. This was a milestone for BLS as it was five years since the society had been founded.

There had been a variety of topics and speakers during the year ranging from `Writing about Theatre` with Michael Frayn and Christopher Cook to James Naughtie speaking on `Writing about music` to Anne Sebba on `Women of influence`. There was an international flavour about some events with Christina Lamb talking about Afganistan and James Barr on Lawrence of Arabia. The season had concluded with a Russian speaker on `Great Russian Writers`.

The BLS 5th Summer Party had been celebrated in festive style with cheese and wine expert Arthur Cunynghame as master of ceremonies.

Following last year`s survey the issue of chairs had been identified and thanks to a generous donation from the `Barnes Charity Players`, the OSO now have the new set of smart red chairs that we are using today.

We appreciate the continued support of the Barnes Community Association`s monthly publication `Prospect` which gives regular coverage of our activities.

We are fortunate that since the inception of the BLS Barnes Book shop has always supported our meetings. We would like to express our thanks to Isla Dawes for her continued presence at all our events with our speakers` books and the generous donation of a book voucher to be `raffled` at each event.

Fiona thanked the BLS patrons for their continued support and encouragement in particular Jan Pienkowski for producing the publicity brochure.

Fiona then explained that what the members saw was the `tip of an iceberg` and that it was due to the hard work of the committee that BLS can continue to organise high quality literary events in Barnes.

Finally the Chairman advised that with an eye to the future of the BLS two new members had been co-opted to the committee, Patrick Harvey and Sarah Kearney.

The chairman thanked the members for their continued support.

Honorary Treasurer`s Report

David Minch , Treasurer, drew attention to the 3% increase in expenditure compared to the previous year. This increase arises largely from the increased cost of the hall and equipment hire. However income has increased exceeding our expenditure by a margin of about 8%, and the Society`s Balance Sheet shows a cash cushion of £4,875. This `cushion` helps face the uncertainties of membership numbers and speakers` fees

The cost of staging an event is now about £1050 including rent, publicity and share of overheads. The summer event and outings during the year are ticketed and intended to be largely self financing.

The Treasurer invited questions from the floor. There were none.

Margaret Barrie Proposed and Steve Perry seconded the motion that the Accounts for 2009 be approved.

The motion was carried.

Election of Officers and committee members.

The Chairman advised the meeting that William Mortimer would not be standing for re-election. The Chairman took the opportunity to express a special vote of thanks to William for all his hard work and support since the inception of the BLS. The meeting was advised that Helen Willan would not be seeking re-election as Membership Secretary, but would stand for re-election as Vice-Chairman.

Nominations for committee members were as follows:

Fiona Smith. Chairman	<i>Proposer</i> Dora Newbury.....	<i>Seconder</i> Stephen Beard.....
Helen Willan Vice-Chairman	Charles Goldsmith	Neville Otty
Claire Boyling Hon Secretary	Jean Otty	Candy Walker
David Minch Hon Treasurer	Susan Boyd	Joan Wheeler-Bennett
Patrick Harvey	William Mortimer	Pauline Ralph
Lucy Hine	Christobel Gairdner	Chris Hine
Sarah Kearney Membership Sec	Heather Parkinson	Shirley Newton

The above officers and committee members were duly elected on a show of hands.

Any other business

Steven Beard proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for the marvellous programme of events over the past five years. He expressed the view that the members owe a debt of gratitude to the committee. The motion was seconded by Isla Blair and passed on a show of hands.

The Chairman thanked the members for their support and declared the meeting closed.