

Queen Elizabeth College (Kensington) Branch, K.C.L.A. Annual General Meeting

Date: 16th October 2004
Location: Franklin Wilkins Building, King's College.
Time: 2.00 pm

Committee members present

Ann Wood (Chair)
John Brockhouse
Gary Thomas (Webmaster)
Henry Embling (Membership Secretary)
Lyn Embling (Editor Envoy)
Helen Huckvale (Minutes Secretary)
Audrey Stubbs (Treasurer)
Pat Cox
Hilary Phillips

Apologies

The Chairman read out the list of apologies from ordinary members unable to attend.

Matters arising from the AGM of October 2003, other than those covered in the Agenda

None

Correspondence

The Chairman read out or reported on items of correspondence received by the committee.

Chair's Report

A copy of this is in the current Envoy and available on the QEC website.

Henry has updated the list of email contacts and the current membership now stands at around 500.

There is no change to the current Committee and all members were willing to continue with their present duties for the coming year.

At the last AGM the committee put forward the idea of asking for donations to support the Association in preference to introducing either an annual or a lifetime subscription. There was a deficit this year and although the Association still has some funds these are being reduced year on year. In order to help offset the decline in funds the cost of the AGM lunch has been increased to £20. If all members were asked for a donation of £5, this would bring in £2500 and so enable the Association to continue for another 4 years. A vote was taken on this issue, with 49 being in favour of raising revenue by asking for a £5 donation from each member and no objections.

Treasurer's Report

Audrey reported that the Association was losing funds and that the cost of the Annual reunion and Envoy were not being met. She also pointed out that Envoy was the biggest drain on funds; postage making up a significant proportion of the overall cost.

The circulation of Envoy is around 500. 17 of those receiving Envoy were happy to have a copy emailed; however the majority were still keen to receive a paper copy. The concern of the Committee is that were Envoy to be only available by email a very large number of members would no longer be able to receive their copy. Many elderly members do not have easy access to email. It was decided that Lyn, Henry and the Committee would continue to investigate ways of reducing the cost of production and distribution one of which might be to offer Envoy free by email but charge a small amount for a copy by post. It was noted that some members present expressed the view that Envoy should continue to be available by post. A show of hands revealed that this was the majority view of those present.

The meeting accepted the Financial Statement from the Treasurer.

The meeting thanked Mavis Everitt for carrying out the audit of the accounts.

K.C.L.A. Alumni report

Ann gave a resume of events and activities of the Kings Alumni, including the 175th Weekend. Members were made aware of the existence of the Alumni website.

Yudkin plaque

This is in the Franklin Wilkins Building on the 4th floor and some members of the Association visited the plaque during the day.

AOB

Ann went through forthcoming anniversaries and congratulated the class of 1954 on their 50 years celebration.

There followed a discussion of the demise of Chemistry at King's and at other UK Universities. There was a feeling that asking QEC members to make donations to King's through the Alumni office was in some part inappropriate as we are all science graduates and consider the continuation and promotion of good science education within London University (and more particularly King's as QEC's successor) to be extremely important.

Ann informed the meeting that Microbiology degrees would also be closing and that Biological Science degrees at King's would do so too. 2006 would be the final year in those degrees and that our reunion in 2006 should focus on former graduates in those subjects. Biochemistry is safe for the present.

The general feeling of the meeting was that the situation is tragic and members deplored the change in emphasis from education in general and science education in particular to 'getting a degree'.

Ann thanked everyone for coming. She also thanked the Committee members and especially John Brockhouse for easing her in to the job of Chairman.

Ann was thanked from the floor for all her hard work, organisation and dedication. Members present were very appreciative of the opportunity to meet up each year.

Date of next AGM

Saturday 15th October 2005.

The Guest speaker will be Professor Martin Hughes