



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 10th October 2018

Present: -

- Chris Clarke**, *President* (CC)
- Sarina Rivlin-Sanders**, *Treasurer* (SRS)
- Jack Perry**, *Secretary* (JP)
- Dan Egglestone**, *Custodian* (DE)
- Martha Muir**, *Director of Debating* (MM)
- Sarah Kuszynski**, *Social Secretary* (SK)
- Alice Lassman**, *Acting Sponsorship Secretary* (AL)
- Rahul Prakash**, *President-Elect* (RP)

Meeting began in the Debating Chamber, Palace Green at 12:30 p.m.

CC in the chair, and JP minuting.

CC opened the meeting.

CC noted the event on Monday which he stated went very well but that we turned a lot of members away as they arrived at around 8:30 and were somewhat aggressive towards House Committee. He stated everyone on Monday did a good job given how understaffed we were. He noted Thursday will be lounge suits and Friday will be black tie. He noted the debate will be 2vs2 to allow for more in depth discussion. He stated Jonathan Foreman has dropped out but that he thinks Samuel Osman might have spoken. He noted, however, that the latter has also dropped out, outlining his potential argument nonetheless. He stated he will speak to the POCA to find an opposition speaker as well as potentially looking into Durham academics. He noted the issues with 2vs2 debates if people drop out. He asked for suggestions from the Committee.

RP suggested David Lowther.

DE agreed, as did **CC**.

CC noted he heard good things about Hotel Indigo and that he was pleased with the dinner service but noted portions were somewhat poor. He noted Crispin Blunt wanted the Twitter updated but that he cannot see it for some reason. He asked **SRS** to tweet about it. He also noted we are likely to appear in the British Medical Journal.

Monday's debate was discussed further, alongside Samrat Pasriccha's (Steward) actions.

CC noted the law of not exceeding 300 people in the Chamber due to fire safety.

DE asked if we need clickers.

CC noted the seating can be used to measure numbers.

SK requested help bringing items to 24s for the social this evening.

CC discussed buying a Dictaphone to enhance audio quality of recorded events.

CC noted the numbers for the address on Thursday and debate on Friday.

DE asked if we need an event for Friday's elections.

CC stated this will be done if we don't have sufficient interest.

CC encouraged Standing Committee to keep drinking to a minimum at the social this evening.

RP and **SK** agreed and noted the need to potentially discuss this with certain members of General Committee.

CC noted reasons for not drinking including the limited amount of alcohol.

AL noted BCLP's sponsorship of the LGBT+ panel and provision of a speaker, alongside the simultaneous sponsorship and speaker from Teach First. She stated this is not ideal given it would mean seven speakers on a panel. She stated Teach First will keep branding to a minimum at the event.

CC outlined the context and noted how he asked Teach First to look into inviting their speaker but that he received a call that the speaker was keen to do it, by which time BCLP has already agreed to sponsor. He noted Teach First had acted quickly and booked the speaker already which forced **AL** into allowing the speaker to come. He stated we can work around it. He noted if it is a 6-person panel they can sit on the podium and answer in Q&A format but if there are 7 speakers the Secretary will have to be moved to one side to fit speakers around the Secretary's table.

AL asked about making it more of an informal sofa-chat.

CC stated the logistics of moving sofas from 24s will be excessive. He noted it will be as informal as possible, however.

MM updated the Committee on debating, noting it has had lots of interest on social media and the Presentation is better than ever.

CC urged members to mention the debate launch, Ball and elections at the social tonight.

MM asked about boosting the event on Facebook.

CC stated she could.

DE asked about Ball ticket sales.

CC replied we have sold around 101-102 as of yesterday at midday, which is ahead of last year and is the minimum we have to sell. He once again noted potential publicity measures such as word of mouth at the social and boosting, as well as sharing it to clubs which members are part of outside the Union.

CC reiterated the importance of this evening. He stressed the importance of common sense, and noted an Officer having a girlfriend kicked out of the debate on Monday.

SRS updated on stash with Moette not requiring a minimum order. She noted they don't do cummerbunds or coloured/branded bow-ties. She also noted teddy bears, jewellery, cufflinks and other potential items for alumni as well as current members.

CC noted the prestige of cummerbunds such as in the military. He stated he wants an order by Friday.

SRS noted Moette can do standard jumpers with branding and names and that this can be sorted by Friday.

AL noted we have no sponsorship for stash yet.

CC noted we need mugs.

SRS suggested notebooks and personalised alcohol bottles.

CC agreed on the former and stated he will consider the latter.

AL asked if stash value will exceed £2000, noting a potential sponsor if we exceed this amount.

CC and **SRS** stated this is unlikely.

SRS noted hoodies are very expensive.

AL noted the Kaampus system and stated we need the mail chimp secured into the Kaampus account. She stated she wants to sync the mass mail system with the mail chimp. It was resolved to press ahead with this.

SRS noted Mr Forshaw has asked about Premium LinkedIn.

CC stated he should ask Sharon

AL noted a call with Teach First, stating we are publicising their 30th October recruitment event for which they have paid £400. She noted they will need to be publicised at least every 4 days leading up to the event. She also noted a brunch workshop on the 3rd November or during the last weekend of November which we are hosting for them and which will also need publicity.

Standing discussed potential dates and it was resolved to hold the workshop on the 10th November.

AL noted she hopes to change the way we contact sponsors by creating a round-robin email to get in touch with sponsors who already sponsor us and to keep them in the loop, as well as one for potential sponsors.

CC noted that this could also suit specific sponsors and that we need to avoid detracting from this area.

CC and **DE** noted the issue with election nominations and discussed potential solutions.

RP updated on Epiphany Term, noting it is a week longer this year and the requirement for eight debates. He noted he has 22 out of 48 speakers so far. He highlighted Norman Lamb MP and Tanni Grey-Thompson, stating in the case of the latter the event will be held in Elvet Riverside. He noted he would like to invest in a wheelchair ramp for 24s.

CC agreed this is a good idea. He stated **RP** may have to have four-person debates to save money in the long-run. He noted that, up until 2016, this was the norm, but that Mr Jackson blew this out of the water in his term. He stated we should have a return to tradition, especially because eight is too many speakers for one event.

RP requested members to look for famous speakers for his term.

CC closed the meeting.

Secretary: **J. Perry, Esq**

President: **C. J. Clarke, Esq.**