



the DURHAM UNION

MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE Minutes – Wednesday 14th November 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)
Connor Forster, *Sponsorship Secretary* (CF)

Apologies: - **Rahul Prakash**, *President-Elect* (RP)

Meeting began in the Debating Chamber, Palace Green at 1:45 p.m.

CC in the chair, and JP minuting.

CC opened the meeting, noting membership is somewhat of a concern and outlining his plans to launch the joint publicity campaign with RP. He noted next week's debate has a fully confirmed proposition but outlined dropouts on the opposition side. He stated he plans to invite Dehenna Davison Fareham who is a Tory candidate for Bishop Auckland. He stated his belief that she will win and thus that it is a good idea to invite her. He noted the Facebook article about Stephen Pax Leonard which he commented in, following a call from the Newcastle Chronicle. He outlined his reasoning for stating he would not invite him to the Union. He noted the group Traditional Britain – Under Attack have attacked him for it, however. He outlined some of the comments on the post.

DE noted incidents of people urinating in the sinks and bins at 24s but stated that, other than this, the bar is doing well.

CC discussed the potential for new beer mats as he is not keen on the new ones that were recently brought in without DE's knowledge.

SRS noted we looked into changing them last year.

CF noted the Teach First event on the 28th November, stating that all Officers must attend and that General Committee members are strongly encouraged to do so.

MM noted she is looking for someone to moderate a debate tonight.

CC pointed out that there is the Baroness Warsi event tonight.

JP stated he will put up the Teach First Networking event on Facebook as soon as possible.

CF outlined expenses for the evening such as wine for the drinks' reception.

SK stated she is working on sorting small cost items after the Ball. She asked if for the Christmas social we could look into the Klute private room.

CC replied yes and noted the possibility of Klute wristbands.

Potential games for the social such as mince pie eating competitions were discussed.

SRS noted a potential fall in income due to low membership and issues with competitive debating.

CC reiterated the need to push membership and stated that he expects **RP** to have a higher than average sign-up rate in his term due to his high-profile speakers. He stated his belief that in a worst-case scenario we will be about £2,500 down in terms of revenue.

MM stated the IV went well and noted the team did very well in Oxford.

JP and **CC** discussed the publicity situation.

CC expressed his belief that General Committee meeting should be fairly short today.

SK noted the need to publicise the pre-debate and pre-address dinners more.

CC stated Hotel Indigo is great but that they do add extra charges if one is not careful, such as for bottled water and large glasses of wine. He noted some guests want coffee after dinner which is not included in the price.

CC closed the meeting.

Secretary: ***J. Perry***

President: ***C. J. Clarke***