

Minutes of QE(K)A Committee Meeting on 13th December 2012
James Clerk Maxwell Building Rm 6.13

Present: Paul Ogden (PO) Chair
Rupal Kapadia (RK) Secretary
Pat Cox (PC) Treasurer
Henry V. Embling (HVE) Membership Secretary
Lyn V Embling (LVE) Envoy Editor
John Brockhouse (JB)
Ann Wood (AW)

APOLOGIES

Gary Thomas (Web Master), Barbara McLennan, Mike Derome, Sally Henderson, Radha Robinson, Hilary Phillips

The Committee began the meeting welcoming the new Chair, Paul Ogden and Secretary, Rupal Kapadia

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING

There were no matters arising.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF AGM

There were no matters arising.

CORRESPONDENCE

HVE reported that Maria Angelo wanted to get a confirmation of the degree she received from QEC but this has been resolved. QEKA cannot confirm certificates.

Dr Praille's daughter, Alex contacted LVE acknowledging the tribute to her father in ENVOY 2012.

Few deaths reported including Sue Holly, John Garlick, Professor Percy Praille, Joyce Doughty, Isobel Mander

TREASURER'S REPORT

PC reported that though an itemised account of our expenditure (printing and postage of Envoy, cost of Website etc) of ~£300 had been forwarded to Nick Goulding who was handling our grant application from KCLA of £400, no grant has yet been received. PC to chase this up in mid January. PO recommended that an application for KCLA grant should be made every year.

The profit resulting from the Reunion 2012 was £42.60 but was not seen in the QEKA account. It should be pointed out this profit does belong to QEKA funds and if not seen in the account by January, PC needs to raise this too.

Action: PC

Since the only income is from the J.P. Morgan High Income account, PO suggested that he will review this investment and if required suggest other forms of investment which may give higher income. PC will give PO the current investment details.

Action: PO

ENVOY

LVE reported Envoy 2012 is already out and Envoy 2013 is on the way to being prepared. Professor Bryan Winchester's talk has been written up and details of the book given by the Prof. needs to be recorded.

Mavis Everitt's nephew has provided LVE a copy of the tribute given at her funeral.

Jean Atkins has written an article about her war time experience.

John Garlick died and SH will contact one of his friends to find more information about him.

Action: SH

PO is running the 250km in the Sahara over 6 days – an article about this can be included in the Envoy 2013

Action: PO

PO suggested that persons who can contribute to Envoy should be kept in reserve for when Envoy is short of contents

WEB SITE NEWS

Nothing to report.

REUNION 2012

Overall it was agreed that the Reunion 2012 was very successful with more than usual attendance. This could probably be attributed to the work of the alumni office who contacted all former students and staff on their data base by email or post and the special appeal of Bryan Winchester.

Though Bryan Winchester had checked the KCL AV equipment etc prior to the talk, on the actual day the projector bulb went out and there was no back up. This meant that another room for the talk had to be used. For future presentation it was thought vital to check the equipment the day before to resolve any issues. Also PO suggested that if it was sent to him then in case of any problems, his computer can be used for presenting the slides etc.

Beer mats also had a reunion on the same day as the QEKA this year. Next year the Beer mats reunion will be organised in the second week of October to avoid the clash of two events.

The caterers were very co-operative considering Alumni Office updated the caterers the day before the Reunion of the number of guests attending. This verified that speaking to the caterers directly makes a major difference.

The additional service charge for coffee etc of £75 and was more easily accommodated with added members attending the Reunion

PO suggested that we keep good contact and relationship with the Alumni Office so that we can get effective help and support each year. Change in staff within Alumni Office has led to some lack in continuity.

HOW SHOULD QEKA RESPOND TO NEWS OF DEATH OF ‘DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS’?

Distinguished Members are defined as those who are directly associated with QEKA. On the death of Distinguished Members it was suggested that both letter of condolence and flowers be sent from the QEKA. However in many deaths, rather than flowers a donation for a cause or charity is collected and in such cases QEKA will typically give £30.

Only a letter of condolence will be sent for non Distinguished Members

The Committee will decide who the letter of condolence and/or the flowers/donation is addressed to.

Attendance to funeral/memorial service is a personal choice.

REUNION 2013

The 2013 reunion will be on 5th October 2013.

PO reported that he had spoken to Shamus Higs regarding the possibility of being the speaker at the 2013 Reunion and Shamus has agreed. However PO will confirm again

Action: PO

It was suggested at the Reunion 2012 that Bryan Foster could be a speaker for future (2013, 2014 or 2015) reunions. HVE will check to see when he can be a speaker

Action: HVE

HVE has contacted Brian Foster and he would be pleased to be the speaker for the Reunion 2013. Brian suggested that he could offer his 'Einstein Universe' with Jack Liebeck, who is one of the best young violinists in world, accompanying him. This would give the opportunity to hear a world class violinist and though it will be a change to the normal format, members of the committee have welcomed it.

In mid January 2013 PC will reserve the rooms for the Reunion 2013 and also ensure that the £42.60 'profit' made at Reunion 2012 is given back to QEKA. PC will check if the Riverside room can be used for both the coffee and lunch since it is larger and brighter.

Action: PC

In Touch - HVE suggested that a larger notification for the QEKA AGM placed in In Touch might draw attention from a greater number of alumni. JB will investigate the possibility of this with the Alumni Office at the next KCLA Council meeting and also find out the submission deadline for the next issue.

Action: JB

KCLA REPORT

At the AGM Valerie Beynon retired as Secretary after 12 years service and is succeeded by Max Chauhan. Lord McColl completed his term of office as KCLA President and Professor Nairn Wilson became President.

The Annual Dinner was very popular with all tickets sold out

The KCLA Address is scheduled for Thursday 7th February 2013 at Southwark Cathedral and that the speaker will be Lord (Alex) Carlile, a King's Law Alumnus, who will speak on 'Terrorism and the Law – Politics or Human Rights?'

KCLA games had been outstandingly successful with over 300 sportsmen and sportswomen attending, some sports featuring several teams and both table tennis and lacrosse tournaments included for the first time. KCL Olympian Katherine Grainger presented prizes and agreed to become the Patron of the Games. This event is now seen as an important for KCLA joining the Dinner, the Address and Duel Day as key high profile dates in the KCLA calendar.

There is a plan to set up an Alumni Sports Newsletter.

The newly appointed KCL Director of Sports, Andy Allford (AA), spoke to Council at the recent meeting on. He reported that he was in the process of gathering information to develop a strategy for sport and fitness throughout the College explaining that a Sports and Fitness policy transcends many College areas although the Alumni activities were not yet 'on the radar'. The target population is not only the small minority of sports people but the vast majority of the 23,000 students for whom 'wellness' was a concern. He said that he was currently examining the issues and opportunities and would be very pleased for King's Alumni to be part of the future strategy.

The annual Sunday Times University Survey had shown a noticeable decline in KCL's position in several key areas including an alarming overall score in 'Quality of Teaching' that had driven King's down the overall rankings. Chris Mottishead (Vice Principal) stated that there are concerns in two significant and large areas, Management (where the problem had been identified before the survey) and Medicine. The

problem was not only that of certain groups but of certain academic staff's lack of involvement in undergraduate courses where failing to turn up to lecture because of their research commitments was not an unusual complaint. KCLSU and student satisfaction with teaching quality within Engineering, reflecting the commitment of key staff (somewhat ironic in view of the closure of the Division), both scored highly. CM was pleased to say that KCL had been able to increase recruitment, did exceptionally well in graduate employment/employability and that King's name and brand seemed to be more important than the subject area.

Some of the problems have been removed or addressed and an Action Plan has been established to redress the balance between research and teaching. Even though academics are still expected to spend 70-80% of their time on research, Stephen Challacombe stressed that staff were employed to teach as well as conduct research.

The Alumni Office reported that the 'World questions|King's *answers*' fundraising campaign had reached £398 million and campaign chairman, Sir John Major, would be hosting a Dinner at the Carlton Club at which key alumni and other donors would be brought up to date.

SC reported that there is a gradual widening acceptance of financial support for the college by alumni and this is reflected in the increased support for the Medical, Dental and Principal's Circles.

AOB

The ordering of the QEC scarves is on hold presently as not enough ordered.

HVE has contacted new members apart from those who attended the reunion. The membership is about 300 at present.

To encourage both interest in buying the QEC scarf and also to join QEKA, it was suggested that AW also included this on Facebook QECA group page. Currently there are 60 members on the Facebook group.

Action: AW

AW has already put message and weblink on Facebook QECA group page for both – possibility of buying a college scarf and joining QEKA which is open to staff and students from QEC and/or people who were at the Kensington campus of King's

PC suggested about having decade reunions but PO pointed out that it would be a bit too exclusive. A better option would be to have a combined reunion i.e. a general reunion together with a particular decade.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22nd May 2013 at 18.30 Room 6.13, James Clerk Maxwell Building, Waterloo Road.

Action: RK to book the room