

AHS 2010 AGM

Date - 9th July 2010

Place - Bristol

Chair - Jenna Catley

Voting attendees (15) - Nicola Jackson (Leeds), John-George Salter (Leeds), Stuart Pilbrow (Warwick), Jamie Barnes (Warwick), Kyna Reeves (Edinburgh), Mary Hucker (Edinburgh), Sam Adjarian (Liverpool), Greg Atkins (Bristol), Jenny Bartle (Bristol), Richard Thompson (Oxford), Simon Myerson (Oxford), Martin Young (DeMontfort), Ben Keers (DeMontfort), Emma Bryce (Durham), Ben Lewis (Durham).

Non-voting attendees - Andrew Copson, Alex Gibson, Norman Ralph, Chris Warfolk, James Murray, Oliver Robinson, Joseph Allen, Adam Semenko, Oliver Mounsey, Natasha Barrett, Michael Paynter (South West RR), Damian Rumble, Daniel Fahey, Katie Barr (Yorkshire and the Humber RR), Jenna Catley.

Apologies - Ned Auckland (Scotland RR), David Bajek (Dundee), Alex Gabriel (Oxford A Pres), Sam Gray (Dundee), Adrian Hayter (Royal Holloway Pres), Dominic Hinkins (Cambridge Pres), Janette Mill (Oxford), Rosie Olliver, Ray Thomas (Southampton), Niall McLaughlin (Queens Pres and N Ireland RR), Samantha Stein, Sophie Stringfellow (Leeds), Christine Turley (Queens AHS Rep), Jess Vautier (Southampton Pres), Michael Williamson, Jens Enzo Nyby Christensen (Cambridge AHS Rep and Eastern RR).

Minutes of last AGM were ratified unanimously.

President's and Secretary's reports

Secretary's report was given by AHS President Jenna Catley, due to the lack of an official secretary.

Jenna felt this year was a difficult one. Part of this was due to the structure of the AHS. Jenna expressed concerns about a lack of financial security, and the AHS haven't got as many new societies as wished. Unfortunately there has been a high turnover of officers, including three web officers, three press officers and three directors of membership. The convention was tagged onto Oxford Think Week and included training.

However, things have been looking up due to new officers. The new website went live at the AGM and received a lengthy demonstration. There has been a number of recent regional socials, including the large London one. Directories have recently been created and populated, including of Speakers, Film, Talks and Debates. There is now a weekly newsletter. Unfortunately a Director of Education was not found.

Questival is being organised, jointly with Leeds Atheist Society and Camp Quest.

The Web Officer role was given to Michael Burgess at the last AGM. His work was slow and inconsistent. Then Alex was appointed, but his work was not very good. Thomas Gibson-Robinson is the current Web Officer and his work is a vast improvement.

The original Press Officer elected was Chloë Clifford-Frith, however she didn't feel able to do all the role. Tashi Warr took it over but didn't do much and shortly resigned, then Richy Thompson took it on.

The Director of Membership role was given to Ellis Pugh at the last AGM, however he went to China over the summer and was out of contact. Jenna did his role, but when Ellis returned he still didn't do anything. Nicola Jackson was then appointed with Jack Tozier in December. Jack didn't do anything so it was decided that Nicola would do all of the role.

The Regional Representative Scheme is now set up completely. There are twelve reps, each living or going to University in their region. The Reps needs to be confident in their role.

Adrian Hayter was elected Secretary at the last AGM. He was unable to carry out his duties due to his research and personal issues. Nicola has been acting in the role since Adrian's resignation in April.

The main problems this year have been that the personel did not have the skills or commitment for their roles.

There is a motion to become more interlinked with the BHA, which Jenna hopes will give the AHS the support it needs for longevity.

Treasurer's report

This was given by AHS Treasurer Stuart Pilbrow.

The AHS now has a bank account and our cheques have been paid in. We have:

- £2,095 from donations
- £340 from membership

subtracting money spent on Awareness Weeks, meet-ups and other initiatives to give a closing balance of £2,129.99.

Press Officer's report

This was given by AHS Press Officer Richy Thompson

He was appointed at the start of March. He build up a database of emails with Nicola Jackson so that the AHS had a mailing list to send the newsletter.

External press was not possible due to the lack of a functioning website, however the new website should alleviate this problem going forward. People can sign up for the newsletter on the website.

Director of Education and Director of Membership report

These were given by AHS Director of Education Nicola Jackson. Nicola discussed the success of the Regional Representative scheme including the appointment of new reps, the Regional Reps guide, and the Speakers, Film, Talk and Debate Directories.

Web Officer's report

Was not given due to AHS Web Officer Thomas Gibson-Robinson not being present. However the new website was launched, and Jenna Catley and Richy Thompson demonstrated it to everyone.

Elections

Norman Ralph was chosen as returning officer

President

Richy Thompson - Oxford Atheist Society

14 in favour wavering of secret ballot due to only Richy running.

15 Richy, 0 RON, 0 Abstentions

Richy elected as president

Secretary

Nicola Jackson

14 in favour wavering of secret ballot due to only Nicola running.

15 Nicola, 0 RON, 0 Abstentions

Nicola elected as Secretary

Treasurer

No one ran.

15 agreed to postpone the election until later on in the day.

Officer roles (interest)

Officers were not elected, however individuals were invited to express an interest.

Members

The following societies were formally deemed to have folded:

- Aberdeen University Secular, Humanist and Atheist Society
- Keele Humanist Group
- Oxford Secular Society
- Royal Holloway Secular Students
- Solent University Secular Society

The following societies were formally ratified:

- Bristol Atheist, Agnostic and Secular Society
- Dundee University Atheist Society
- DeMontfort University Rationalist Society
- Queen's Humanist Society

Durham University Humanist and Secularist Society were re-ratified due to a relaunch.

Motions

Free membership motion

Proposed- Richy Thompson

Seconded- Nicola Jackson

Short factual questions from Norman and Simon.

Alternative income: Donations from societies, treasurer to become a fundraising officer, Andrew Copson offers BHA donation to cover losses.

Vote for motion 12 in favour, 2 against 1 abstention.

Motion carried

New constitution

Andrew Copson representing the British Humanist Association (BHA) and Jenna Catley went through the new constitution, seeing:

- The AHS entering an agreement to be facilitated and supported by the BHA
- The Board of Trustees disbanded, and replaced by a new Board containing the BHA Chief Executive, the AHS President, 3 BHA appointees and 4 AHS appointees
- The AHS Committee replaced by the Caucus, which additionally gives votes to the AHS Executive and Board members
- Any full-time UK student eligible to run for the Executive, not just members of the Committee
- The Schedules to the Constitution scrapped
- Associate and external membership scrapped, leaving just one class of society membership (full membership)

Richy Thompson took issue with the proposed clause 14.2, that would have needed unanimous consent (as opposed to a majority) for decisions taken by the Caucus outside of a General Meeting.

Proposal to remove clause 4.2

Jenna Catley proposed

Simon Myerson seconded

14 agree, 1 against, 0 abstention
Clause removed

Vote on new constitution
Committee votes
15 for, 0 against, 0 abstain
Motion is passed

Treasurer elections

Following the new Constitution, more attendees are eligible to run for Treasurer.

Sam Corcoran runs

Voting held where everyone shuts their eyes

14 for, 0 RON, 1 abstains

Sam elected as treasurer

AOB - None

End of meeting 15:10