

SUSS-EX CLUB

STEERING GROUP

NOTES OF THE 13th MEETING
FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2009, from 1715 hrs

Present: Bob Benewick (BB), Sue Bullock (SB), Jackie Fuller (JF), Charles Goldie (CG), Arnold Goldman (AG), Ken Wheeler (KW), Adrian Peasgood (AP), Steve Pavey (SP), Jennifer Platt (JP), David Smith (DS).

Apologies: Yvette Ashby, Gordon Conway, Mike Tribe.

1. AP agreed to write the Minutes, and to deal with the Agenda for the next meeting.
2. Minutes of the meeting on 3 July were approved.
3. All matters arising were covered by specific agenda items.

Subsequent business is recorded in Agenda order, not in the order in which it was taken. JF acted as Chair to 1815, and JP from 1815 to the end of the meeting.

4. DARO agreement. A paper by JP had been circulated. SP recalled the agreement between the then Registrar and a Suss-Ex group (himself, JF, AP) which noted how responsibilities associated with Suss-Ex would be divided between the group and the University. Subsequent implementation had revealed some lack of communication to University offices, and some differences in interpretation of the principles laid down. Agreed that the Suss-Ex group (augmented by CG) should seek a meeting with the new Registrar to (a) ensure his appreciation of the role of Suss-Ex ('not just a voluntary social club' - a summary record of the programme to date would be prepared by JF/SP in support of this), and (b) confirm the agreement. In particular, automatic 'enrolment' of leavers needed his backing.

Responsibility for circulating material to the Steering Group was discussed, some favouring its remaining with DARO, others accepting that it could easily be done within Suss-Ex, e.g. by the person preparing Agendas.

Discussed how conveners of an event should act if a 'policy' decision was required, and agreed that the issue should be emailed to members of the steering group with a (short) deadline for comment.

Agreed that present conveners had acquired considerable knowhow in respect of contact with different parts of the University, and that records of this experience should be compiled, to assist others.

5. Office accommodation for retired staff. JP noted considerable variety of practice from unit to unit, and asked whether we should seek a University-wide policy. Agreed that, since such a policy would probably be more restrictive than present practice overall, no such initiative was desirable.

Noted the significance of the 'Emeritus' title, and that CG monitored changes in regulations for any which might affect it.

Agreed that the next Newsletter should contain the new edition of the list of services available to retired staff.

6. Suss-Ex website. CG reported an additional way in which the Suss-Ex pages could be found, but that other suggestions had not been accepted. He would monitor the situation. He and AG would look into possible publicising of a new form of 'tinyURL'.

7. Finances. JF reported that with Celia Alexander's help she had reconstructed all Suss-Ex financial transactions from the beginning. This showed that DARO had absorbed some of our minor deficits. Our balance was £218.03 at the start (1.8.09) of the current financial year. JF's offer to continue overseeing Suss-Ex accounts was warmly welcomed.

8. Recent events. Noted the publication of John Murrell's history of Mols, and that a small group had gone to Ayckbourn's 'Absurd person singular' at the Theatre Royal.

9. Future programme. After discussion this was agreed as:

19 October	Margaret McGowan talk (and optional meal) (SP/BB)
6 November	Bremf concert (JP)
16 December	Christmas party (<i>date decided subsequent to meeting</i>) (SB)
xx January	Coward's 'Present laughter' at the Theatre Royal (showing 25-30 January) (JP)
spring	(Subject to confirmation) Gordon Conway talk on low carbon economies. (SP/BB)
spring	'Carousel' at Lewes (AG)
xx March	Chekhov's 'The seagull' at Brighton Little Theatre (showing 9-13 March) (AP)
21 March	Walk with Geoff Mead (<i>date decided subsequent to meeting. Our April preference not feasible.</i>) (AP)
summer	Campus walk with David Streeter and David Harper (KW)

Matters arising during arrangement of the above: bookings for Margaret McGowan were less than hoped for; in particular, present senior personnel had not responded; agreed that we should experiment with a 'lighter' format, of a talk but no meal; possible future speakers remained Valerie Cromwell and Helen Wallace.

10. Talks programme. No immediate volunteer to take over from SP/BB; agreed that the Newsletter should extend an invitation to anyone possibly willing to join the present team first.

11. Christmas party. SB agreed to take over as organiser (jointly with Tracy Llewellyn). Details of past practice were available in JP's reports on previous such events. Volunteers would be needed to help on the day.

12. Newsletter. DS agreed to edit the next issue, which should appear in the first half of November.

13. Date of next meeting. Friday 15 January, subject to the availability of GC.