

SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 62nd Steering Group meeting
Friday 1st July 2022 at 4.30 pm, online

1. Welcome

Paul Tofts chaired the virtual meeting, hosted by Charles Goldie using Suss-Ex's Zoom subscription. Also present were Ross Dowsett, Jackie Fuller, Sara Hinchliffe, Steve Pavey, Tony Moore and Helen Walker.

2. Apologies for absence

None.

3. Minutes of the 61st Meeting, of 1st April 2022

Approved.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

None

5. Finance

Jackie reported that the credit balance was unchanged.

6. Recent events

- 25th April: hybrid talk by Prof. Robin Banerjee on his *Kindness* project. Around 10 attended in person, some being guests, and around a further 20 'attended' via Zoom. It was good that we saw the Zoom participants. Thanks to **Ross** for organising our second hybrid event and for rehearsing it so well that it went off without a hitch. The setup in the room was good and will be even better for any future use, as an additional camera has subsequently been installed.
- 20th May: tutored wine-tasting *A Wine Tour around the World* by James Hirschfeld. 13 paid of whom two were no-shows, so 11 came, an adequate attendance, also financially. Again a very successful event for those who came, thanks to the speaker and to **Ross** for hard work. Two were needed to mount the event, as food was provided, the room had to be arranged and restored to normal, etc. **Ross** has written to thank James Hirschfeld.

7. The future of Suss-Ex

Thanks to **Jackie** for her paper, appended to the Minutes. Points made in relation to it included the following.

- Sussex has always lacked an adequate social space for staff.
- Numbers for social events are down across the board; Covid is resurgent and people are used to Zooming.
- Suss-Ex is not *needed* as an events organisation: our events are similar to those that other groups put on anyway.
- We have however made our events distinctive by adding components of interest to our members in particular (such as our three-component visit to the i360); the problem is to convince members of this enough for them actually to book.
- Some of our offerings are particular to Suss-Ex, such as the Pub Social, the Picnic at blackberry time, and the Christmas Party. These are also easy to mount (the latter because we are invited participants in USPAS's event, mounted by Tracey Llewellyn).

continued ...

- Our Newsletter is very dependent on promulgating our events. Putting them on, as well as drafting other components such as interviews and historical articles, requires much work.
- We need a survey to find out what our members want. It should also ask about the Newsletter.

Agreed the following short-list of actions.

- We should continue to mount events easy to organise. Others are on hold.
- **Jackie**, assisted by **Helen**, will work on a survey to be circulated to members in the autumn. “What events would you like to be put on, would you come, what time of day would suit?” Contributions and views on the proposed questionnaire are sought from all of us.

8. Future events

- We will offer a campus picnic followed by optional blackberrying on **Friday 9th September**.
- **Ross** and **Steve** will look for a suitable venue and date for a Pub Social.
- **Steve** will ask Tracy Llewellyn if the USPAS Christmas Party (buffet lunch) is to be put on this year.
- For the future, **Steve** noted that boat tours of Shoreham Harbour will re-start in 2023, that the Rampion Visitor Centre will be upgraded, and that guided walks around Lewes Railway Lands should be a good option for 2023.

9. Newsletter

The Newsletter is on hold but its subgroup—**Ross, Jackie, Charles, Sarah**—will circulate an invitation to the Picnic and, if fixed, the Pub Social.

10. Membership

(a) Steering Group

Our membership of 9 does not need augmenting, though we’ll be happy to consider expressions of interest in joining.

(b) Mailing list

Charles reported as before that new members continue to trickle in, having received our joining form on leaving Sussex University employment.

(c) Facebook

There are few contributions to our Facebook site. **Ross** will post some photos relevant to the University’s 60th anniversary.

11. Other business

- We should contribute to the University’s 60th Anniversary Weekend on 2nd–4th September, e.g. by staffing a desk. **Tony** will consult with the Head of DARO.
- Thanks to **Ross** for her sterling work for Suss-Ex on so many fronts.

12. Next meeting

Friday 23rd September 2022 at 4.30 pm via Zoom; **Charles** will set it up.