Society for the History of War

Minutes of AGM Society for the History of Warfare 17:00 - 17:30 Friday 25 September 2020 held online

Committee Members in Attendance: Peter Wilson (PW), Matthew Ford (MF), Erica Charters (EC), Catherine Fletcher (CF), Leighton James (LJ), Guillaume Piketty (GP), Rupert Culyer (RP), Dan Todman (DT), Gavin Rand (GR), Alison Fell (AF), Helen Parr (HP)

Also approximately a further 25 members in attendance for the AGM

1. Welcome and Introduction

MF welcomed everyone to the first AGM of the Society for the History of War.

2. SHoW Constitution and Committee Reports

The AGM formally noted the Constitution of the Society. MF commended the Committee Reports to the members.

3. President's Address

PW welcomed everyone to the first AGM of the Society for the History of War. The Society had initially planned to hold its AGM at its conference at Science Po in March 2020 but the Covid-19 pandemic had made this impossible. The Executive Committee therefore took the decision to move the AGM online.

PW outlined the aim of the Society to provide a forum for intellectual exchange for those interested the history of war in the broadest sense.

PW thanked those who had worked on the organization of the both the *New Voices in the History of War* Twitter conference held earlier in the day and the online AGM.

4. Election of Officers

MF noted that no-one had stood in opposition to the existing officers and Executive Committee. The following officers and members of the executive were duly confirmed in post:

Officers:

Prof Peter Wilson

President

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Dr Matthew Ford SecretaryProf Catherine Fletcher Treasurer

And the following *members* to the Executive Committee:

• Dr Leighton James Membership Secretary

• Rupert Culyer Digital/Online

• Dr Gavin Rand Equality & Diversity

Prof Guillaume Piketty
Prof Helen Parr
Dr Philippa Woodcock
EU engagement coordinator
Conference Coordinator
Conference Coordinator

• Prof Alison Fell Blog Editor

• Prof Dan Todman Committee Member

• Dr Erica Charters Committee Member

5. Treasurer's Report on SHoW finances

CF outlined the financial position of the Society. She indicated that very few of the original attendees of the cancelled Science Po conference had asked for their fees to be reimbursed. The Society was, therefore, in much the same financial position as outlined in her report.

The pandemic had resulted in the cancelation of the many academic events. The Society had, therefore, held back on providing funds for PGR events. CF suggested that the funds originally intended to fund PGR events could be used to support digital activities.

CF referred to the issue of charitable status for the Society. She noted that the process had been held up by the pandemic, but also that associations that provided funds to their own members could not be considered charities. She recommended that the Society hold over seeking charitable status until its activities had bedded in.

6. Future Activities

Discussion turned to the future activities of the Society. AF reported on the development of the SHoW blog. She that some participant in the *New Voices* Twitter conference had agreed to provide blog posts. She indicated that she would be approaching member for future blog posts.

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John Beales reported on the organization of the SHoW Twitter conference. He indicated that the preparation of the conference was a steep learning curve, but that the conference had worked well overall.

MF and RC raised the possibility of a wider digital strategy, such as the production of study vlogs. They also indicated that there was further outreach potential in the use of social media, such as Instagram and Youtube. MF asked members to send him ideas for SHoW's future digital strategy.

7. Future SHoW events at Dublin and Science Po

GP outlined the complicated organizational process that that been involved in the Science Po conference before the pandemic. He noted that only one attendee had so far sought a reimbursement of the conference fees.

GP indicated that work on the proposed conference at University College Dublin scheduled for 2021 war ongoing, while the Science Po conference would now be postponed to April 2022.

PW indicated that the *New Voices* event planned for London 2021 would not go ahead due to on-going restrictions due to the pandemic.

MF stated that the Society would outline the revised schedule of events to participants. He also indicated that it was the ambition of the Society. To run another Twitter conference for the Early Career Researchers next summer in place of the in-person event.

8. Close

MF and PW thanked the participants for their attendance. PW introduced the key note speaker, Prof. Beatrice Heuser, and drew the AGM to a close.