

# OPEN UNIVERSITY LAW SOCIETY



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### Society Committee

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the 2024/25 Society Committee held online on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024. This meeting also has the feature of being the Society's AGM meeting, held in accordance with the guidelines.

#### Present:

Patricia Thomson	Chair
Mark Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle	Treasurer
William Brazier	Secretary
Ryan Greene	Vice-chair
Paid members of the society.	

#### Agenda:

1. The AGM is an opportunity for members to meet the new executive committee.
2. Information regarding the highly anticipated mooted events will be announced.
3. Details of the guest speaker's series for the 2024-2025 academic year will be released and upcoming trips will be shared.

#### Welcome

Ms Thomson Trisha welcomes members of the society to the AGM. The beginning of the meeting is confirmed as 1803. Each of the members introduces themselves, specifically Ms Thomson as Chair, Mr Greene as Vice-chair, Mr Lindley-Highfield as Treasurer, and Mr Brazier as Secretary.

#### Housekeeping

N/A.

#### Absent

N/A.

## **Minutes of the last meeting**

N/A.

## **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

N/A.

## **Report**

### Ms Patricia Thomson.

Ms Thomson began by introducing the new guest speaker series. It is explained that details of this will be uploaded on the Society's website. Key dates for talks by the University of Law, the SQE, and on becoming a Barrister are shared. Details for trips to the State Parliament in Wales, the UKSC, Inner Temple, as well as tours of the Royals Courts of Justice and the Houses of Parliament are shared. Other trips are explained as being in the pipeline, albeit there are no fixed dates as of yet.

Ms Thomson recognised that mooting is one of the most important things for a law society. A novice workshop is confirmed as taking place in London on 10<sup>th</sup> August, followed by a competition on 11<sup>th</sup> August, and in Manchester on 14<sup>th</sup> September, and 15<sup>h</sup> September.

There is a question on the summer ball. Ms Thomson explained that there are currently no plans, however if there are enough members interested, then this is something the committee would look at holding again.

Ms Thomson shared Mr Greene's society email address.

Ms Thomson explained the website is being revamped, and the reason for the dormancy on the current iteration is due to technicality issues.

Ms Thomson stated that the society is large, and so a growing engagement is key, as this can assist in increasing sponsorship, and in turn opportunities. The society is also conscious of holding networking events.

It is also confirmed that there will be an opportunity to go up against other law societies in mooting competitions.

### Mr Ryan Greene.

Mr Greene explained that a big competition in mooting is coming up. It will occur roughly around Christmas. There will be a collection of guest judges. Mr Greene stated that the OULS are the first law society to hold a competition of this kind.

The competition will be a full submission of civil law.

The final round of the competition's location will be a surprise.

There will be a workshop conducted by Mr Greene a few weeks in advance. This will be about preparing and performing in civil litigation. The exact case type has not been decided yet but will be released in roughly two weeks' time, towards the end of July.

Students will be organised into X or Y groups, acting for the defendant and the complainant. They will be performing in a live setting over a zoom call, for the first round at least. The Judge will then decide who wins the case. Although, it is explained that it is not about who wins the case, but who performs their advocacy better.

Mr Greene will provide feedback for all of the students who participate.

Mr Greene assured members that he is approachable, and to contact him for any advice.

#### Mr William Brazier.

Mr Brazier provided details for the OULS Instagram account and explained that other social media accounts will soon be up and running. Engaging with the society members is key, and social media is seen as key in achieving this.

It was explained that details on the events relating to guest speakers, trips, and mooting will be shared on the Instagram page.

Mr Brazier shared the email addresses for the secretary account, and for the contacts account, of which all committee members have access.

In response to a question by a member, it was answered that all committee members relevant information will be posted on the website.

#### **Actions**

N/A.

#### **Finance**

##### Mr Mark Lindley-Highfield of Ballumbie Castle.

Mr Lindley-Highfield started that the committee has to view and authorise the society's accounts.

There are two accounts, a PayPal account, and a deposit account, which is run by the student's association.

The accounts have already been scrutinised by two independent auditors, who were satisfied.

There were a further two paid up members who checked the accounts. One was completely happy, whilst the other asked some questions, which have been answered.

These questions concerned three larger transactions, confirmed as relating to the summer ball, and a mooting competition.

Two committee members were asked to come forward and endorse all of the society's payments.

Ms Thomson authorises the accounts, with Mr Greene seconding this.

#### **Proposed changes to the society byelaws and society guidelines**

N/A.

**Any other business**

N/A.

**Date of next meeting**

No date confirmed.

**Signed:**

William Brazier, Secretary.