TSSA Retired Member’s Group Committee

Minutes

**Thursday 4th October 2022**

**Present;** John Rees (Chair), Luke Howard (Secretary),

Dave Porter (Treasurer), Bob Bayley (Newsletter),

Tim Young (Minutes)

**Apologies;** Dinesh Bhardwa\*, Cheryl O’Brien\*, Stephen Lawrence
 Joel Kosminsky (for the NPC Report)

**Chair;** John welcomed those present.

**Minutes;** The Minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 11th August were

approved. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on today’s

agenda.

**Secretary;** i. It was agreed to suggest the following Meeting dates for 2023 for
 agreement at the AGM, subject to confirmation of TSSA Conference:
Full RMG Meetings in 2023: 9th February,

4th May 21st September and the AGM on 16th November.
Committee dates:

23rd March 17th August 12th October and 14th December, in

addition to this year’s remaining Committee meeting on 8th December 2022.

There were no strong feelings for holding hybrid committee meetings.

ii. The Meeting Room in Walkden House is booked for this year’s AGM on

17th November. It can hold twenty people. The meeting will be hybrid so

not everyone will attend, but being in Central London, might attract more ‘in

person’ attendees than a provincial venue.

iii. Luke has been in touch with other venues we’ve previously used to see if

they can accommodate hybrid meetings. The Queen’s Hotel in Leeds can, as

can St. Aloysius, near Euston, and St. Michael’s at Stoke Gifford. He is still

awaiting a response from Stockport. John referred to comments made by

Tim in an e-mail following the recent hybrid meeting and fully concurred

with them. Luke was reluctant to make speakers go to a specific

microphone when physically present at a meeting. Hybrid meetings may

well need additional cameras and\or revised seating arrangements for those

present in the meeting room.

iv. Luke advised a minor correction to the Minutes of the recent full meeting

in that David Northey was not elected to the Committee although his

willingness to volunteer was.

v. Luke has not yet refreshed the RMG membership form but is intending to,

and is hopeful of Walkden House sending to all TSSA members when they

retire, leave service for another position or simply lapse their TSSA

membership.

vi. Following an update from Tim after the recent Full Meeting, documents

will be sent to him for uploading to the new TSSA website’s ‘My TSSA’ RMG

section.

vii. Relevant dates have now been announced by the EC for the (re-) election

of a General Secretary. The EC are meeting again soon, after which further

details may be forthcoming.

viii. Luke had no further information on Equalities Research. Cheryl is

leading on that brief and was not present at this meeting.

ix. A discussion was then held regarding the RMG Committee and whether

Standing Orders need to be changed in order to secure an adequate number

of Committee members. Bob recommended deferring a decision to the

December Committee, as, following the AGM next month, we will hopefully

have some new Committee members whose opinions on hybrid meetings or

Zoom meetings, and the rules currently pertaining to length of service on the

Committee and length of time off it before returning to it, will need to be

taken into account. An informal discussion amongst those virtually present

at this meeting ensued without firm proposals being made, on a number of

these issues under discussion. Luke will draw up a draft motion for the

AGM that can be debated, amended or rejected by that meeting. There was

general enthusiasm for getting David Northey on the committee especially as

he is likely to be presenting pre-Retirement seminars in the future. It was

also noted that we can add additional posts to the committee, especially an IT

one if hybrid meetings are to continue.

**Treasurer;** Dave had reported a balance of £1,645 at the Stoke Gifford meeting. Since

then he has paid expenses to Cheryl & Steve Whitehead to attend an NPC

event and has paid the account (£281) for Stoke Gifford. He has also just

received an expenses claim from Cheryl. With those claim paid, the RMG

has £1,281 in the bank.

**Newsletter;** Bob is intending to have a draft newsletter available by the end of the week

in order that the definitive version can go out in time for the AGM. It will

contain photos of the recent hybrid meeting. John commented that the

newsletter had significantly improved under Bob’s editorship. Bob said that

if anyone wanted to take over editing the newsletter he would stand down

from the Committee otherwise he will re-stand for his second three year

term.

**Pre Ret. Seminars;** John reported that pre-Retirement seminars will resume in the New Year and

be advertised alongside other TSSA courses. They will only be held on

Zoom for the time being, and the offer of help from David Northey and his

two colleagues will be gratefully received. The first course should be

delivered in February or March next year.

**Visits;** David had offered a trip to the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon. He has

not done anything further since the last meeting. He will do a couple of

paragraphs for the newsletter currently being put together. The museum is

generally open Tuesday-Sunday, but can open on a Monday for organised

groups. The likely time for a visit would be between Easter and the various

May Bank holidays next year.

Bob suggested a brewery tour in Burton-on-Trent, and a steam museum at

Statfold, ([www.statfold.com](http://www.statfold.com)) a few miles outside Tamworth. The problem

with that would be transport from the station but Statfold might provide that, and Statfold is only open on specific days each year.

**NPC;** Steve Whitehead joined the meeting and reported on current issues. About

85% of income for the year has come in. Steve is predicting that there will

be a deficit for the year as a whole. The main problem is that no-one knows

how inflation will affect NPC finances. The current situation is similar to

the Heath-Barber Government of the early 70’s when inflation was well in

excess of 20% and both pay and prices were being raised every few months.

Issues that Steve foresees include some NPC member unions adopting a

‘Can’t Pay, Won’t Pay’ position, and other unions merging with each other,

and paying a single subscription instead of two, for roughly the same

number of members.

**AOB;** Hopefully, there will be more information on the General Secretary Election

and details of motions submitted to next year’s Annual Conference at our

AGM next month.

There being no other business, John declared the meeting closed.

**Next Meetings;** All Member Meeting (AGM) on 17th November by Zoom and in person at

Walkden House.

 Committee on 8th December by Zoom.