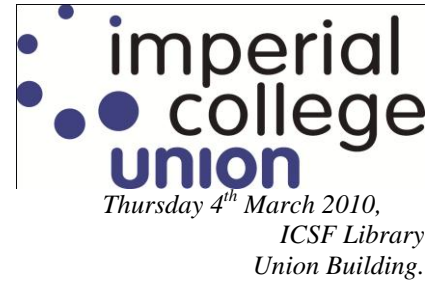


Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the ICU Science Fiction, Fantasy and Gothic Horror Society



- Present:** Alex Savell (Chairentity)
John Davenport (Treasurer)
Rebecca Clark (Secretary)
Joseph Britton (Librarian)
Rosie Goldsmith (Chair of Vice)
Chris Hutchison (Picocon Sofa)
Simon Moxon (Picocon Beanbag)
Benedict Harcourt (Web editor)
Alexander Cameron (Publicity Officer)
- Also Attending:** Ed Boff
Helen Pennington
Patrick Boyle
David McBride (Semi-Dave)
Gabriel Carpenter
- Absent:** Akbaralli Kapasi (Wyrmtongue editor)

Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Fluffy: Shut up!

Admission of last meeting's minutes

Minutes accepted without objection. (3 abstentions)

Chair's Report

1. The Chair has nothing to say.

Treasurer (John Davenport)

- i. We have lots of shiny money.
 - i. We've made slightly more money than last year, but negligibly.
 - ii. Last year we sold beer, this year we sold books. They make about the same profits.
- ii. We're not sure exactly how much money we have as a club. It's about £3,100.
- iii. T-shirts have made a slight loss, since we spent £422 and made £485 (not counting VAT).
 - i. We'll keep selling them at £10.

Action(Liz): Send an e-mail to the list telling people to buy t-shirts.

- iv. We need to change Amanda Hemingway's cheque (to be made out to Pat Cadigan) rather than cancel it.
 - i. It may be possible to stop the cheque existing in the Union.

Action(Primrose): Deal with Amanda Hemingway's cheque.

- v. "Gubbins" refers to various small claims. Please get the last of small claims in soon.
- vi. We have £400 left of grant, though some of this may disappear. We will be keeping £500 rollover, and this is included in our main money total.
- vii. Much arguing occurs on monetary philosophy
 - i. Specifically, to spend or not to spend and how much rollover to keep.

Picocon

Chris: "This is going to be a fucking long one!"

1. Official thanks are minuted to LAN Dave.
2. Official thanks are also minuted to everyone else who helped.
3. Jaine Fenn
 - i. Talk was good
 - ii. She really enjoyed herself and will be back as a guest next year.
4. Amanda Heminway
 - i. Was horrendously hungover
 - ii. We succeeded in stopping her from abusing mormons during her talk
 - i. Which was fun
5. Al Reynolds
 - i. Talk was good. They all were quite different, which was good.
 - ii. The "hard SF" view of SF&F.
 - iii. All three authors seem to have enjoyed themselves.
6. The signing went well
 - i. Although we over-ordered **horrendously** on the books.
 - ii. Word of the fact that we do signings may well spread.
 - iii. We should re-use Orion books!!
 - iv. We sold
 - i. 19 Jaine Fenn
 - ii. 19 Amanda Hemingway
 - iii. 3 Al Reynolds (Zima Blue)
 - iv. 33 Terminal World (and 3 afterwards at a lower price).
 - v. This suggests we buy fewer than 25 books per author without good reason.
7. Stephen Baxter is a good potential for next year.
8. Robert Rankin may be back – BEWARE.
9. The Panel went well
 - i. We had a quiet Al Reynolds, and a fantasy perspective on The Science in Your Fiction.
 - ii. We also had a panel of 4 women and 1 man – rare in the genre.
 - iii. The past guests worked rather well.
10. DODM & Turkey Readings
 - i. We made £573
 - ii. So it went well
 - iii. Liquid Nitrogen works much better if we do it legally.
 - iv. VHSs are good fun, but we need to fix the tape issue. Obi Wan went particularly well. Scooby Doo vs. Batman got a good boost from Alex Trenchard, who wanted to watch it.
 - v. For next year, we should get Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles / Star Trek (original series) crossover.
 - vi. The turkey readings are getting out of control.
 - i. Bumper the kid worked fairly well as a starter.
 - ii. Should we do a scan-and-slideshow? No.
 - vii. More care is required for the Turkey Viewing.. Mega Shark vs. Giant Octopus?
 - viii. SatanSkin was a positive gem.
 - ix. We need some form of system for dealing with the amount of paragraphs given for an amount of money.
11. Silly Games
 - i. These were too short.
 - ii. This is partly because they started late.
 - iii. Just a Minute started well, Primrose managed to murder Mornington Crescent. The end ought to have more of a flourish.
 - iv. (Here, Chris made sex noises).
12. The LAN.
 - i. It worked perfectly, with the exception of two machine (one blue-screened twice, the other had trouble booting).
 - ii. It should be noted that it takes about one man-week to set up the LAN.
 - iii. The server-laptop failed.
 - iv. Three games was perhaps too many.
 - v. The tournament went fantastically well.
 - i. We got the prizes just by asking, it was a particularly good time for them (they wanted to publicise a new game).
 - ii. There were 10-20 people playing.
13. The Quiz

- i. 31.5 out of 60 was the highest score. This is too hard!
 - ii. There were a mix of “possible” and “impossible” questions.
 - iii. The book covers were a little too obscure-looking.
 - iv. There was also insufficient fantasy there.
 - v. The “one book from each author” works well. Use iconic or recent book covers.
 - vi. It was also very book-heavy.
 - vii. Praise to Ed.
 - viii. Peter did not behave as Mr Quiz.
 - ix. We ought to finish the quiz a week in advance and have it 'vetted' by the Picocon subcommittee
 - i. £20 will be given by Chris to Fluffy if this actually happens
14. The Meal
- i. Service was slow for some tables
 - ii. But reviews were mostly positive

(The screen-saver successfully trolls Fluffy)

- iii. Five approvals were recorded from those in attendance.
- iv. They can also handle large numbers without a problem, and it was easy to book.
- v. It was, however, expensive.
- vi. Also, different is good. Explore Gloucester Road.
- vii. Food and the first round was a clear policy, and worked well.

A Weir appears.

- viii. So did the table division, with babysitters paying then being reimbursed.
 - ix. Vending machine reimbursement requires the chair and treasurer's signature on an invoice. Then, it's fine.
 - x. The authors will sometimes expect us to deal with lunch. The library cafe is perfectly OK, as is a pub (the Queen's arms?).
 - xi. The authors also enjoyed the pub.
 - xii. Consider rearranging the book signing such that the authors get a lunchtime.
15. Clearing Up
- i. The trolley was in great demand.
 - ii. We ought to schedule a little time in advance, or get a second.
 - iii. Booksellers are often not annoyed, just dour.
 - iv. We ought to have a dBs major domo.
 - v. (Kudos for Benedict)
16. Transport, Scavenger Hunt, general crap
- i. There was a tube fail.
 - ii. We can't do anything except put out better information.
 - iii. The scavenger hunt went quite well, though a scoreboard would have generated more enthusiasm
 - iv. The clean-up-meal went perfectly well.
 - v. The fact that LT1 was a tip has not counted against us because we sent photos to Jenny. She is pleased with us.
 - vi. We ought to have a first-aid kit for Picocon next.
 - vii. We need to keep people on the Blakett door!
 - viii. Semi-Dave won't be running the LAN next year
 - i. Talk to Mark Rutland
 - ix. Pat Cadogan made a fine quiz compere.
 - x. Something similar ought to be organised for the future.

Library Buisness

- 1. Amanda Hemingway has offered to do a Creative Writing workshop.
 - i. Two afternoon sessions (each for two separate groups)
 - ii. Total cost of £250, which puts the cost at about £10/head for the two sessions.
 - i. No subsidy/low priority for non-ICSF members, but we can allow them access to it.
 - iii. A subsidy of up to £50 from the society is unopposed in principle.
 - iv. Jaine Fenn suggested talking to Liz Williams about something similar.

Action(Fluffy): send out an e-mail about a writing group

2. £4 Membership
 - i. The time is ripe...
 - ii. Wouter does not get this concession.
 - iii. We need some paper forms.

Vote: Ought we to reduce our membership to £4?

For: (n-1) where n is the number of members present.

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1

Action(John): Get some paper membership forms

Action(John): Brace the damn shelves!

- iv. Benedict has sent out a technical e-mail. Please read it.
3. Money

- i. How much should we leave for next year?
- ii. Proposal: £500.
- iii. The Union dislikes nest eggs.

Action(Primrose): investigate what kind of interest we can get on spare money.

- iv. So, £500 is definitely earmarked. We may add more.
- v. We should move Snake Gandhi
 - i. Where to?
 - ii. Decide this later.
- vi. We should get a lock and panel for the cashbox cupboard
- vii. Should we get a chest/safe to protect first editions?
- viii. If the key was on the keyring, its value is largely as a deterrent.
- ix. We could, however, put the key in the cashbox.
- x. We should get a new mount for the TV, in order not to waste the large chunk of space.

Action(Chris): Investigate new mount & lockbox.

- xi. We should replace the chairs.

Action(Benedict): Look at the chairs, with a view to be fixing them.

Action(John): Research new chairs.

- xii. Chris is going to do a tidying run. Great Atuin ought to beware.
- xiii. More shelves, we need.

Action(Primrose): Investigate new shelves, e-mailing Peter, Fluffy and Chris.

- xiv. We shall not be getting an upscaler, just a new Blu-ray capable DVD player
- xv. With **divorced sound system**.
- xvi. Cost being about £200.
- xvii. We will **not** be buying blu-ray DVDs, however we will accept donations.
- xviii. We won't be upgrading the VHS player, since they don't make good ones anymore.

Vote: Should we buy a blu-ray player with separate sound system:

For: Many

Against: 1

Vote: Should we include in the Standing Orders that we are not to buy Blu-Rays.

For: Many

Against: 1 (but only on the Blu-ray player)

Action(Primrose): Get prices of blu-ray/sound system prices.

- xix. Should we just replace the whole system with a computer?
 - i. There are serious liability issues with this (eg Tom Squires, who copied disks and uploaded the copies to his server).
- xx. Should we re-arrange the low-usage books?
 - i. Discuss this in its own, separate meeting.
 - ii. No rearranging the library before stock
- xxi. Gabriel suggests we improve our graphic novel (“comic book”) section.
 - i. A lump increase, rather than the sporadic improvement currently occurring.
 - ii. He ought to investigate this.

Vote: Are “comics” under-represented?

For: Most

Against: 1

Abstaining:1

Action(*Gabriel*): Produce a sensible list of things for us to buy.

4. Hay-on-Wye
 - i. We are suggesting that there be £200 total subsidy for Hay-on-Wye, of which about £96 is grant.
 - ii. We have a fancy new payment method which is both less fuss and more convenient.
 - iii. Suggestion: increase the subsidy.
 - iv. No: we have a maximum attendance, so it can only benefit a small fraction of the membership.
 - i. Also, this will bring the subsidy to more than membership costs.
 - v. We could also kill the subsidy
 - i. We do have some Union grant for this, so we can't kill it completely.
 - vi. But this would probably damage fun and affordability.
 - vii. There are also fears that we are simply the committee giving ourselves more money if we increase the subsidy
 - viii. If we got more grant, we would arguably be obliged to make the trip less "cushy" since the primary purpose is supposed to be buying books.
 - i. It's also arguably a service to the membership, however.

Meeting adjourned at 20:50.

List of Actions

Action(*Gabriel*): Produce a sensible list of things for us to buy.

Action(*Primrose*): Get prices of blu-ray/sound system prices.

Action(*Primrose*): Investigate new shelves, e-mailing Peter, Fluffy and Chris.

Action(*Benedict*): Look at the chairs, with a view to be fixing them.

Action(*John*): Research new chairs.

Action(*Chris*): Investigate new mount & lockbox.

Action(*John*): Get some paper membership forms

Action(*John*): Brace the damn shelves!

Action(*Fluffy*): send out an e-mail about a writing group.

Action(*Primrose*): Deal with Amanda Hemingway's cheque.

Action(*Liz*): Send an e-mail to the list telling people to buy t-shirts.