

# Ustinov College GCR Annual General Meeting Minutes



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7:00 p.m. 31/05/2018

**1. Apologies: FO**

**Present:** JG, TAB, AS, AB, TP, JO, MR, VU, NQ, XM, AH, CW, JO

**2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on 05/06/2017: Approved on the general aye.

Minutes from the General Meeting held on 15/03/2018: Approved on the general aye.

**a. Issues Arising from Last Minutes**

Nothing to discuss.

**3. Reports from Officers**

**a. President [JG]**

To sum up, the committee has achieved a lot through this year, during the move from HF to SP. Everyone has had an ongoing update at the General Meetings. SP is not everything we wish it to be yet, but it is certainly not bad. The observatory will be a music room and there is another room there that might be an SCR or a common room for the GCR. The project manager for it resigned then went off ill so someone else was hired. It seems to be going ahead and there are no problems currently.

The GCR has been guaranteed sports facilities at Durham School. We should have access to everything outside of term time except the swimming pool.

JG is MCR PresComms Rep on the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Committee. It is becoming much more successful and ramping up in operations. The feedback from students says not enough is happening and not fast enough. Now the group is having fortnightly meetings.

At SFAG they are appointing student reps to argue against increase in fees. Papers will be going to them next week.

In January a budget was passed for an event to be held jointly between the community and the GCR. The councillors could not get funding, and the GCR money was dependent on them matching that budget so the GCR money also had to be pulled.

The BBQ organising is going well and should be under budget. It will be a great event.

*Is there a timeline for getting access to the swimming pool?*

Currently it looks like it will be the new academic year.

*Have you had any information about using the Durham University Business School facilities?*

JG had to chase the university up a lot. The situation is currently sitting with DUBS – the Queens Move Project Manager requested Ustinov students can access the facilities there, but DUBS have not responded yet. JG is hoping to chase this up more before his time as President ends.

**b. Treasurer [AB]**

It has been a challenging year being across two sites for everyone, and no less on the treasurer side. At the start of the year had the levy situation, where the university moved to an online system and changed it to an opt-out system. The GCR was not told about this very late, but AB is hoping to get the information a lot sooner for this coming year to communicate that to students earlier. The university will be making sure this is done too.

Financially, the GCR has done OK as a result. There have been more livers in this year, so the number of members has increased. With only being on one site next year this may decrease again. This year, significant progress was made in terms of record keeping, with things like float counts, cash handling and cash-in-hand being more carefully kept track of. Getting the breakdown of types of ticket sold (member or non-member of GCR) has gotten better this year which will help future events. This will also help going forward as the GCR is now a registered charity.

There were two big goals this year. One was online formal ticket payments which was unsuccessful. AB contacted the DSU, but they said they did not have the workers required to do it regularly. Thanks to Alastair (Secretary), who has been in charge of taking payments this year. There were problems with the type of charity that the GCR is, amongst other things, so it is not as simple as just setting up any system.

Currently we have £50,185.47 in the accounts, of which about £11,000 will go toward the Summer Ball and around £25,000 will go toward the BBQ and last remaining purchases of the year. The GCR should be fine with regards to money going into next year, which will help with the uncertainty (with the move etc.). We have a stable amount of savings.

*What level should the savings be?*

The savings should cover around one year of payments of GCR levies, so should be around £30,000. AB thinks a lot more than that should not be put into the savings but notes future Treasurers may disagree. Each year the GCR should be running as close to cost neutral as possible. One year's worth of GCR levy payments is the aim, beyond that the money should be going back to the members in the form of expenses used for them.

**c. Vice President [XM]**

The main role of Vice President is to take care of facilities, organise events and facilitate other officers' jobs. So, this year, in terms of facility, XM ordered refreshments for vending machines. Thanks to the Livers Out Representative Clare for getting the mechanism sorted of the vending machine to take the new one-pound coin. The coke machine will be moved to Sheraton park soon for next year's usage. Also, this year a new TV was bought for residents in Dryburn and it was requested that College set up the TV for the residents to watch World Cup. College have also been asked to move some BBQ grills over to Sheraton park so

now students there can use them. College are looking into providing a hot ash bin for usage.

This year, three kids' parties were organised. The first one, the Halloween party, was held in Sheraton and the College was joined by the local residents which was a great success. The Christmas kids party and Easter kids party was held here. Thanks again for Nigel being the Santa and Fernanda being the Easter bunny, and all the volunteers. XM arranged three Ustinov stash orders; around the 20<sup>th</sup> May was the last order. Students should be able to collect the stash by the middle of June. Another event XM would like to promote is the 'Ustinov as Home' art competition. It would be great for the students to contribute to the art in SP but there are still a low number of entries. The social events were promoted on WeChat throughout the year. As you know we will move to SP, away from HF – would be great for students to contribute to the art here. Still low entries – call for entries. Pushed the deadline until the end of June.

**d. Bar Steward [VU]**

VU can confidently say that both bars still exist. A lot of the events were very successful including the Superbowl, the Halloween party amongst others. Guinness and Carlsberg are on tap in SP, and the bar will continue to have a wide variety of bottle beers, whiskies and other things. There have been approximately ten new staff over the last year, who have been fantastic. The bar got the gold accreditation last year and secured it this year too. VU thanks all the bar staff.

**e. Clubs and Societies Officer [TP]**

There are now three new clubs or societies; the table tennis society, darts and hairstyle and lifestyle. They have been very successful with lots of members, so hopefully they continue to do well next year.

Two funding requests were done through the year, which was essential for the running and upkeep of the sports and societies. This year has been a great year for Ustinov sports teams. The pool team did extremely well and won everything as usually. This was one of the most successful years for Ustinov in the last three years at least on record for Team Durham.

The Festival of Sport is coming up, there are more teams entering than last year. The SP gym started up this year; TP calls for anyone who is having problems with it to contact him and thanks everyone for their patience as it gets set up.

*Ustinov is currently not last in the sports rankings. How are you going to insure we are not going to be last this year?*

We need to do well at Festival of Sport.

**f. Communications Officer [MR]**

For Comms this year, the same routine was followed as last year. Online advertising was done for the events, and MR tried to maintain the same

promotional accounts on social media. Peter Platypus gave Ustinov a sense of community and is a central figure at the College.

MR has been communicating with College to try and get message boards to be put up around SP. There is now a media cabinet with a PS4 inside.

**g. DSU Liaison Officer [AH]**

There were quite a few elections this year, including the NUS elections. One of the highest turn outs of Ustinov in recent years as someone from the College ran. There have been slightly difficult times due to the academic officers not always being patient.

AH helped with the Ripped Off campaign, fighting against accommodation fees charged by the university.

AH encourages people to run for positions in the DSU at the next GM/AGM.

**h. International Officer [JO]**

There have been several successful trips this year. There was a trip to Alnwick Castle, a walking tour on the history of crime and justice in Durham, a trip to the Beamish Museum, to Edinburgh, to Bamborough Castle and Alnwick, to York and finally to Whitby. Trips were as cost neutral as possible.

**i. Livers Out Representative [CW]**

CW has been Livers Out Rep since October. Since then there have been about six livers out events; a Bonfire night trip, the Pantomime, pancakes in the pancake café, Fish and Chips on Good Friday and two drinks events. CW tried to set up livers out office hours in town on Saturday mornings, but they were poorly attended so they were stopped.

*Which event got the most livers out?*

MR's walking tour events and drinks at Whisky River.

**j. Social**

**i. Social Secretary [NQ]**

There have been lots of events and formals.

The Summer Ball is next Friday for people who got tickets. The week after that there will be a Fifa World Cup party to celebrate the World Cup Final. Then, the leavers party will be on 7<sup>th</sup> September. If there are any other events or parties people would like to know about then let NQ know.

*Is it possible to organise an event with cooked food?*

There are BBQs at both sites. The GCR is not really allowed to organise food as need to have catering due to health and safety. A suggestion is to do it very informally, usually to great success.

**ii. Ball Secretary [FO] [Apologies]**

Everything for the Summer Ball is booked in, including coaches, food and entertainment. The dietary requirements have been sent to Beamish. This year, particularly expensive decorations have been avoided. You will be receiving final details soon about what will happen on the day.

**k. Steering [TAB]**

There have been seven General meetings; thanks to all those who attended. As far as TAB is aware the GCR has not broken any rules this year.

**l. Welfare Officer [JS]**

The GCR did not have welfare officer last year. Hopefully the only way has been up this year. There have been consent matters events, international women's day events, mental health events, women's brunch and couple of other events.

In terms of Welfare Office hours, they were very committed to start but dwindled a little except for Adrian (Male Welfare Rep) who has kept it up – thanks to Adrian. It has been difficult to do welfare hours being split over two sites.

Hopefully there will be a puppy event in August. JS encourages people to apply for Welfare Officer at the next General Meeting. He will be attending a welfare weekend with the other colleges' Welfare Officers.

JS feels that next year the condom distribution needs to be improved. It has been noticed that people have sometimes been taking upward of fifty condoms in one go. That is not really the purpose; they are for emergencies. It will be the task of the next welfare officer to improve on that.

Over the summer JG will be organising some training to organise some consent workshops next year. The university as a whole is trying to implement this. JG is very determined that next year Ustinov will run a peer led consent matters workshop for every incoming student. He is looking for PhD students to come to a three-hour training session one evening to get taught how to run a consent workshop. During induction week and the weeks after they will run the events for all students. JG will be putting out an email soon.

*I started my masters in March and nobody gave me the induction. It has been a problem for other Mexicans that arrive at difficult times. What are you going to do to change this?*

The GCR needs to work with College to get them to inform the committee when a group of new students arrive – they have not been doing this. College have brought up they are going to do a video of inductions to Ustinov, the presentations there are at the beginning of the year, so that they are freely available for students that arrive throughout the year to help students.

Whoever is on the committee next year needs to make sure the videos are relevant and short.

*Other colleges have a system called parents, where the MCR members are parents to JCR members. Is this possible for Ustinov?*

It is not really practical as there are around 1,200 students every year and very few of them actually get involved in College. This is why there is the mentor system.

#### 4. Agenda Items

##### a. 2016/2017 Accounts [AB]

###### i. Proposal

*To pass the 2016/2017 GCR accounts subject to the final audit from the accountant being complete.*

Proposer: Alexander Blair

Secunder: Alastair Stewart

###### ii. Supporting Information

The spreadsheet with the accounts was sent out to all Ustinov students with the agenda.

Every year the GCR has to submit their accounts to the charities commission. They are submitted 10 months after the end of the financial year, so the end of June. These are the 2016/2017 accounts, which were mostly done during the previous Treasurer's tenure. They are currently being audited by the accountant.

###### iii. Questions

No questions.

###### iv. Vote

34 votes for, 0 oppositions, 1 abstention.

##### b. GCR Computer for Sheraton Park [AB]

###### i. Proposal

*To pass a budget of up to £800 for a new GCR desktop computer to be put in the SP GCR office, and for Microsoft Office.*

Proposer: Alexander Blair

Secunder: Jamie Graham

###### ii. Supporting Information

The computer at Howlands is on its last leg. It could be transferred over, but sometimes it does not even start up properly. It is a very important tool, for Induction Week and many other things. The budget includes £680 for the computer and £120 for Office.

###### iii. Questions

No questions.

###### iv. Vote

36 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

##### c. 2018/2019 GCR Budget [AB]

###### i. Proposal

*To pass the following budgets, which together make a year budget for the 2018/2019 for the GCR. In summary, the total expenditure allowed for is £73,940.00 with an estimated income of £76,430.00, leading to a net of +£2,490.00.*

*The primary GCR income is estimated to be £25,000 from GCR levies (£35,000 was received from levies in 2017/2018 but the number of Ustinov*

students living in College will halve next year) and £15,000 from the composition fee.

AB wants to propose a year budget for guidance for next year's committee. Next year will be very different as the College will fully move to SP, but this will hopefully at least give a guide. This is not restrictive, it can be moved around, but it gives a template for next year.

### 1. Social Committee Budget

To pass the following budget for Social Committee 2018/2019 (all figures listed below are expenses unless otherwise stated):

#### **Induction Week**

Posters	£200.00
Welcome Pack and Handbooks	£350.00
Volunteer Shirts	£400.00
Games Night Pizza	£250.00
Icebreaker Quiz	£60.00
GCR Brunch Food & Cutlery	£450.00
GMO Sale Buses	£100.00
Film Night Film & Popcorn	£40.00
Paul Skerritt Band	£500.00
Karaoke	£200.00
Newcastle Walking Tour Guide Hire	£300.00
Redundancy	£300.00

#### **Formals**

Induction	£3,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £2,500)
Bonfire Night	£3,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £2,500)
Christmas	£3,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £2,500)
Burns Night	£3,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £2,500)
Chinese New Year	£3,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £2,000)
Castle	£3,500.00 (Est. ticket income of £3,000)
College Honours	£1,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £800)
Summer Ball	£14,000.00 (Est. ticket income of £9,250)
Redundancy	£500.00

#### **Parties**

6 Events (Decorations/DJ/Silent Disco)	£3,000.00
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#### **Photography**

Event Photography	£1,600.00
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#### **Summer BBQ**

BBQ Bookings & Hire	£15,000.00
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**Total Expenditure:** £56,750.00 with estimated income of £25,050.00.

**Proposer:** Alexander Blair  
**Seconded:** Nigel Quinn

#### **Questions:**

What is our total income this year? Do we need to register for HMRC tax list?

Our income is not high enough.

**Vote:**

35 for, 0 oppositions, 1 abstention.

2. **Clubs and Societies Budget**

*To pass the following budget for Clubs and Societies for 2018/2019 (all figures listed below are expenses unless otherwise stated):*

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>£2,500.00</i>
<i>Match Funding</i>	<i>£1,000.00</i>

<b><i>Income</i></b> from Gym Membership	<i>£4,000.00 (£7,500 in 17/18 but halving the number of students living in College next year)</i>
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***Total Expenditure:*** £3,500 with estimated income of £4,000.

**Proposer:** Alexander Blair

**Secunder:** Tom Pitts

**Questions:**

*With regards to what counts as equipment, is that specifically funding applications or can it be used for the gym?*

A gym budget is not so important this year as it is brand new, but in future years gym membership money should be set aside for the gym. This could be passed separately.

*What about the gym equipment that is at Josephine Butler? There are lots of things that we do not have here that we need.*

The gym here is quite short on equipment but seems to cater to what most people need in Ustinov. The gym is small, and the roof is low. Once the required padding is put in you would struggle to fit in, for example, a squat rack. It is something to think about in the future though. If a squat machine was put in another machine would probably have to be taken out.

**Vote:**

38 for, 0 oppositions, 1 abstention.

3. *To pass the following budget for GCR trips for 2018/2019 (all figures listed below are expenses unless otherwise stated):*

<i>Beamish</i>	<i>£250.00 (Est. ticket income of £290)</i>
<i>Edinburgh</i>	<i>£1,070.00 (Est. ticket income of £1,040)</i>
<i>Lindisfarne</i>	<i>£395.00 (Est. ticket income of £380)</i>
<i>York</i>	<i>£700.00 (Est. ticket income of £610)</i>
<i>Whitby</i>	<i>£700.00 (Est. ticket income of £660)</i>

***Total Expenditure:*** £3,115 with estimated income of £2,980.

**Proposer:** Alexander Blair

**Secunder:** James O'Neill

**Questions:**

*Has there been much discrepancy in previous years for the trips?*  
AB would have to look that up.

**Vote:**

37 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

**Motion to vote them through as a batch, in the interest of time. This passes – the next set of budgets will be voted on together.**

4. To pass the following budget for Welfare for 2018/2019 (all figures listed below are expenses unless otherwise stated):

Welfare Supplies                      £1,200.00

**Total Expenditure: £1,200**

**Proposer:** Alexander Blair

**Second:** James Smith

**Questions:**

**Vote:**

5. To pass the following budget for Steering Committee for 2018/2019 (all figures listed below are expenses unless otherwise stated):

Pizzas for Meetings                      £1,200.00

**Total Expenditure: £1,200**

**Proposer:** Alexander Blair

**Second:** Alastair Stewart

**Questions:**

**Vote:**

6. To pass the following budget for Facilities for 2018/2019 (all figures listed below are expenses unless otherwise stated):

**Common Room**

Pool Tables                                      £900.00 (Est. income of £1,800.00)

**TV**

BT and Netflix                                  £2,500.00

PVSL    £325.00

**Insurance**

Student Union Insurance                      £850.00

Officers' Insurance                              £2,000.00

Accountant's Fees                                £400.00

**Office Admin**

Admin    £400.00

**Vending**

Vending Machine                                £800.00 (Est. income of £1,800.00)

Coca Cola Vending **Income**                      £800

**Total Expenditure:** £8,175.00 with estimated income of £4,400.00.

**Proposer:** Alexander Blair

**Secunder:** Xiaoxiao Ma

**Questions:**

**Vote:**

For the above budgets combined – 38 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

**d. Breaking Ties in Executive Committee Meetings and Updating Voting Members of the Executive Committee [JG]**

**i. The GCR notes that:**

- The standing orders currently only explain what happens when the executive committee reaches a tied vote on a motion at the end of the Chairperson's role description.
- Tied votes happened this year and led to confusion over what to do as the above was missed, not being under the section of the standing orders that discusses the executive committee.
- The standing orders have not been updated to account for Ball Secretary being an executive committee member for part of the year (as well as Induction Officer now leaving exec after Induction Week), and do not include International Students' Officer as a voting member of exec owing to an oversight.

**ii. The GCR believes that:**

- It should be made more clear that the Chairperson may cast a vote on motions at exec meetings if (and only if) there is a tied vote.
- The list of voting members of exec should be up to date.

**iii. Proposal**

*Amend Section 4.1.f of the standing orders to read "The voting members of the Executive Committee shall be: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Welfare Officer, Social Secretary, Clubs and Societies Officer, DSU Liaison Officer, Communications Officer, Bar Steward, Induction Officer (during the period they are a member of the Executive Committee), International Students' Officer, Ball Secretary (during the period they are a member of the Executive Committee) and Livers Out Representative. Only the Chairperson is a non-voting member, unless there is a tied vote in which case the Chairperson may cast a vote to break the tie."*

**Proposer:** Jamie Graham

**Secunder:** Alastair Stewart

**iv. Questions**

**v. Vote**

39 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

**e. Executive Committee Terms [JG]**

**i. The GCR notes that:**

- The standing orders are currently ambiguous as to whether an individual cannot hold **the same** executive position for more than two years, or cannot hold **any** executive position for more than two years.

**ii. The GCR believes that:**

- The standing orders should be clear.
- It is reasonable to prevent people from holding the same role for over two years, but not necessary to prevent people from serving on exec for over two years, as a number of committed exec members have done over the years.

**iii. Proposal**

*Amend Section 4.1.i of the standing orders to read "Members can only hold one Executive position at one time, but may be re-elected for the same post or elected to a different post. No individual can normally hold the same executive position for more than two years consecutively or non-consecutively, unless mandated to do so at a general GCR meeting. Should the holder of an Executive position be elected to another position on the Executive Committee, he or she shall be deemed to have resigned the former post."*

**Proposer:** Jamie Graham

**Seconder:** Alastair Stewart

**iv. Questions**

*Would there be a situation where someone does a position for two years then swaps position to reset their time?*

It says two years, not two consecutive years. It would be down to the discretion of the Chair, and then put to a General Meeting to see if they would be eligible to run.

**v. Vote**

40 for, 3 abstentions, 0 against.

**f. Removing References to Howlands Farm from the Standing Orders [JG]**

**i. The GCR notes that:**

- Ustinov College will vacate the Howlands site in September 2018, after which it will be solely based at Sheraton Park and Dryburn Court.
- There are currently two Howlands representatives listed in the standing orders, and numerous references to Howlands and to Fisher House.
- These references are all easily removed without changing the meaning of the relevant sections of the standing orders, as in each instance all that is required is removing the specific reference to "in Fisher House" etc..

**ii. The GCR believes that:**

- The standing orders should be updated to reflect our vacating Howlands Farm.

**iii. Proposal**

*a) Mandate the Chair to remove all references to Howlands and Fisher House from the standing orders.*

*b) Abolish the position of Howlands Representative, with the proviso that this will take effect in September 2018 (meaning that those currently*

*in the position will continue to serve on the committee until then). This will also involve removing references to this position from the Vice-President's role description and from the description of Facilities Committee within the standing orders.*

**Proposer:** Jamie Graham

**Secunder:** Alastair Stewart

**iv. Questions**

*Would all changes come into effect after the move?*

With the exception of Howlands Representative they make no difference, other than have 'at Howlands' or 'at Fisher'.

**v. Vote**

38 for, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

**g. Updating the Role of Honorary Life Membership of the GCR in the Standing Orders [AH]**

**i. The GCR notes that:**

- Students and other members of the college that deserve HLM status have made exceptional contributions to the Ustinov community throughout their time at Durham.

- The only current recognition of their hard work is their mention in the standing orders.

- There are no restrictions on when a student or member of the College or University can be awarded an HLM as long as a motion awarding said title is passed with a 2/3 majority.

**ii. Proposal**

*To add to Section 9 of the Standing Orders:*

- *Students of the college only become eligible for nomination for an HLM upon graduating as a member of Ustinov College.*

- *HLM members receive the GCR members discounted rate all Ustinov events such as formals and Balls.*

**Proposer:** Alex Hampton

**Secunder:** Alexander Blair

**iii. Questions**

*Why change to only being eligible to be nominated once you have graduated? You gave the situation where someone updated a notice board and their friends could propose they get one. It is true they can, but it seems unlikely to me. Also, that applies after they graduate too?*

Lots of colleges give HLMs to their students. Currently it says that anyone can receive one at any point, so there could be a situation where friends nominate each other who do not really deserve it. It's less likely to happen after they graduate.

*Who would it work for someone who did a Masters, left, then came back for a PhD?*

That is a slight issue, however the current wording means anyone can do it. I would still say the change is slightly better. One would hope they would still be active in College if they came back.

*What about people who have made a large contribution to the College, but in say their final year have not been so active? They may not be remembered despite deserving it for the work they did previously.*

It is more likely that someone who is proposed the next year did something that is more worthy of an HLM if they are remembered. There will still be some people who remember them. The amendments also mean that an HLM means something – there is an incentive to nominate someone who deserves it with them getting discounted rates, so they are less likely to be forgotten.

*Do you mean graduate or finish their course, for example after a thesis is submitted?*

*Could the proposal be amended such that they may be an HLM but if they are currently a student, they still need to pay a levy?*

**An amendment is made to the proposal such that HLMs are awarded after graduation or finishing a course, but if the person becomes a student again, they no longer receive the discount benefits while they are still a student.**

**iv. Vote**

26 for, 12 abstentions, 0 against.

*The Following motions require a two thirds majority.*

**h. Honorary Lifetime Membership for Jesper Pedersen [JG]**

**i. Proposal**

*The GCR shall award Jesper Pedersen an honorary lifetime membership.*

**Proposer:** Jamie Graham

**Secunder:** Alexander Blair

**ii. Supporting Information**

Jesper is the epitome of what it means to be a Ustinovian. Jesper has not only distinguished himself by taking on a variety of roles within the GCR, but also in the context of wider student life. Jesper first served as the GCR's communications officer, before taking on the role of GCR treasurer in 2015-16. I know our current treasurer regards Jesper's handover notes as treasurer to be the bible of fiscal responsibility when it comes to financing the GCR. He masterminded a successful programme to bring the GCR's running costs out of the red during his time as treasurer. Not content to merely commit himself to a life of GCR politics, he also founded the Ustinov cricket club - as a Dane, he found the concept of a Durham College without a cricket team unacceptable - so he did all the work himself, learning the game from scratch.

But this was of course not enough for Jesper, he then became head of the Ustinov pub quiz society, and while regularly performing at Ustinov Live on his guitar. Once we learned of the plans to move Ustinov, Jesper was also a leading voice in the movement to save Ustinov at Howlands Farm, before joining the GCR's board of trustees as one of our alumni trustee. Jesper has been a large part of making Ustinov what it is today, and I

believe he is thoroughly deserving of its highest honour, an honorary life membership.

**iii. Questions**

**iv. Vote**

37 votes for, 5 abstentions, 0 against.

**i. Honorary Lifetime Membership for Thom Addinall-Biddulph [JG]**

**i. Proposal**

*The GCR shall award Thom Addinall-Biddulph an honorary lifetime membership.*

**Proposal:** Jamie Graham

**Secunder:** Alexander Blair

**ii. Supporting Information**

What can I say about Thom? It's no secret that Thom's been in Durham, and at Ustinov, for a rather long time. During his undergraduate days, he was wasted on St Cuthbert's Society, some degenerate College that now lives in old GradSoc. Of course once arriving at Ustinov, he truly came into his own. If I had to list off his achievements within the GCR, it would go something like this: Election Officer (2009-2010), Yearbook Editor (2010-2011), Press Secretary (2010-2011), Livers Out Rep (2011-2012), Acting Livers Out Rep (2012-2013), DSU Liaison Officer (2015-2016), DSU Liaison Officer (2016-2017), Acting Video Master (2016-2017), Editor of the Qstinovian (2016-2017), GCR Chairperson (2017-2018), GCR Trustee (2017-2018), Pub Quizmaster (2017-2018).

But all of this misses the point. I've sat in countless meetings where college management discuss the College "community". When I think to myself what the hell do we mean, when we talk about our "community" as a College? Well, I think what we're really referring to is the people whose efforts make Ustinov a place we can call home.

Thom is one of those people.

I could talk forever about the extent he's gone to to ensure postgraduate representation in the DSU for Ustinov. I could similarly talk about all the times he went out of his way to make livers out feel like a part of this college, and make this whole collegiate system more than just words on a page and turned it into something I believe in.

To be honest, just looking at Thom's Ustinov CV is enough to tell you those things. It is because of Thom's dedication to making life just a little more bearable for each and every Ustinovian here that I nominate him for this award. Thom knew when he took up the quizmaster role that it's a thankless job, but he did it to make sure that on a Thursday evening, every student can come to Fisher House and relax over some trivia. That's why he gives speeches at formals when nobody else can. That's why he recites poetry at Ustinov Live when nobody else wants to.

Thom has repeatedly and selflessly given himself to Ustinov College, and I think it's time we gave a little something back to him. Please vote to give Thom honorary lifetime membership of the GCR.

**iii. Questions**

**iv. Vote**

42 for, 1 abstention, 0 against.

**j. Honorary Lifetime Membership for Yan Birch [JO]**

**i. Proposal**

*The GCR shall award Yan Birch an honorary lifetime membership.*

**Proposal:** James O'Neill

**Secunder:** Vinay Utham

**ii. Supporting Information**

Besides working behind the bar for years, which he is paid to do, Yan has been the main impetus post founding the Ustinov Frisbee team in taking it forward as captain and latterly has been a key player and instructor for a number of years. Yan has been an integral part of the Ustinov Pool teams over numerous years, involving captaining the A team twice and being an instructor to B and C team captains. He has been a large element of the bar social life, and Ustinov social life generally. Finally, he has given an enormous amount of time, effort and enthusiasm generally to the sporting and social life of Ustinov College.

**iii. Questions**

**iv. Vote**

35 for, 4 abstentions, 0 against.

**k. Presentation of Awards to Sports Teams**

Teams who won the premiership college league get an award from Team Durham, but the committee wanted to make sure teams who won the other leagues were recognised too. This year two teams won, Pool A won for the third year in a row and had an undefeated season. Three of the players are ranked the top three players in the league. They are the sport that put Ustinov College on the map.

Ustinov College's Ultimate Frisbee team won the first division. They were almost undefeated this season and will be promoted.

**l. Hustings**

**a. President**

**Candidate:** Tom Pitts

**Manifesto:** *I am Tom Pitts, a Second year PhD student studying Physics and I am this year's Clubs and Societies Officer.*

*I believe that the GCR is an integral part of people's time at Ustinov. In my position on the Executive Committee I have been well placed to see the good work that has been done, and the work left to do, in completing the move to our new home at Sheraton Park.*

*I am running for President as I believe that I will be best able to lead the college through this transitional period with my aims being:*

*\* To ensure that the new unique facilities we will have access to from next year (Durham School, The Observatory) are used in the best way possible for Ustinov students*

*\* To establish a new college identity once we are all at Sheraton Park*

*\* To continue to ensure postgraduates' voices are heard by the DSU*

*The skills I have for this role have been developed through involvement in the college this past year. As Clubs and Societies officer, I have coordinated and promoted our clubs and societies and manage the successful formation of two new sports teams and a new society. As a captain of a college sports team I have experience getting the most out of people and motivating people to do the best they can.*

*I have really enjoyed my past two years in Ustinov and I am passionate about giving as much back to the college as I can!*

*Vote Pitts4Prez!*

**Hust:** In my first year here, I got involved in the sports teams and with the social life. The GCR makes the university experience. I have been on the sports teams this year and have been C&S Officer this year.

I want to make sure all the hard work continues this year with Ustinov moving over fully to the new site. Ustinov is going to face a lot of uncertainty; I have been on the committee this year, so I know a lot of the things that are going on right now. There are sports facilities that need sorted, the bar needs to be planned a little differently, the move needs planned, and events need run. I have spent a lot of time discussing things through the year and have spoken to Jamie (current President) a lot so feel I am the best person running. I want to make the experience we had back at HF the same experience we have at SP.

**Questions:**

*You do a lot of things, you are very involved with Frisbee, pool, and are constantly around the bar. How are you going to fit these things in during the PhD?*

Unfortunately, I may have to cut down on some of the other things.

*One of the things that was hardest was community engagement this year, with people that have lived here for 10 years. We want to party, we want to have a university experience, so how can we replicate the experience we had in Howlands and have a good student experience in this College?*

I want to continue the work you have been doing with the Sheraton Park Residents Association and the Neville's Cross Residents Association. The best way to show we are good neighbours is to continue to behave well and show the community we do not just want to party and make noise all the time.

*As a president, would you accept friend requests in future from International Students who want to know who you are?*

Yes.

**b. Vice-President**

**Candidate:** James O'Neill

**Manifesto:** *The role of Vice President is comprised principally of the duties of facilities management and positional-cover of general duties of the President. As a member of the GCP (one year as Café des Arts Team Lead and one as ordinary scholar) beside my current position of International Student Officer on the GCR Exec, I am familiar with a broad and varied spectrum of duties performed in the*

*last two years for both social and academic activities for the student populace of Ustinov.*

*As Vice President I would aim to perform the 'domestic' duties of managing the facilities of Sheraton and Keenan House (both sites which I am very familiar with) whilst also looking into strategy of improving the student experience in liaison with the GCR Exec members. Through my background in events and seminar organisation and management I believe I am fully qualified to fill in and cover the President when necessary, and consequently believe that I can fully fulfil the duties of the position of Vice President.*

**Hust:**

The Vice President role is quite varied, and there are various things involved. They are a right-hand person to the President, and it is difficult to put in a series of points. The main criteria are the facilities, kids' parties, and vending machines.

My experience comes from my first year. Apparent from working behind the bar, I was on Café des Artes, and I liaised this year with the SPRA with Jamie. This involved monthly meetings with residents. This year I was International Students Officer and ran various trips.

**Questions:**

*This summer, the GCR is going to be moving stuff from Howlands to Sheraton. Do you have an idea about what things are important?*

Things like pool tables and the logistics of things are actually going to get moved.

*Are you willing to step in for the President on various duties if they cannot make it for some reason?*

Yes, that will be fine. I have been on the SPR committee already and liaised with residents already. As far as speeches go, I am quite used to chairing seminars and used to speaking in public.

*Are you willing to stand in for other unfilled roles to a reasonable degree?*

Yes, I will also be trying to push people into applying for these roles.

**c. Treasurer**

**Candidate:** Pedro Martinez Castro

**Manifesto:** *I am a first year PhD student in the Engineering Department. I have had experience in the industry in managing international projects. This also gave me the experience of the fundamentals to manage budgets. Therefore, I want to contribute to Ustinov to the best of my ability and be your next treasurer. Next year a big challenge is expecting us, and I am committed to administrate our budget to transform that great challenge into big opportunities. I will focus on a transparent management of the budget, so everyone can easily know how much and in what are we spending. In addition, I plan to discuss a distribution of the budget to help us integrate better to our new home Sheraton Park. Please give me the chance to serve you.*

**Hust:** I'm Pedro, this is my first year of my PhD in Engineering. This is the best time for me to really contribute to Ustinov College. I have some skills and have some experience as I was working with industry.

I would like to keep the good record keeping, keep the communication with the GCR community about expenses and encourage engagement with the SP community. I would like to encourage GCR members that have good ideas that

need funding to engage with the committee. I am willing to work with them to get that idea going. Finally, I would like to keep moving toward electronic transactions, which would be better for the community. Thanks to current committee.

**Candidate:** Eduardo Joel Lopez Torres

**Manifesto:** *Since I was in secondary school, I learned how important is to manage money. I was the treasurer for my classroom, and during that time, we always had enough money to fund our activities. However, the treasurer position is not only related to money and bank accounts, you also have to know how to interact with others as well and find solutions to different kind of problems. I have a Technical Degree in Management and have experience looking for different suppliers according to different budgets and goals. Moreover, I have experience working in teams and negotiating with others in order to get the best deals for everyone. As a research student here, I will have more time to attend to meetings when required and manage my time to support any other activity the GCR Committee organises. I have the will to help others, and I think this is the perfect position for my skills.*

**Hust:**

I am doing a master's in engineering and I want to run for a GCR position. I was treasurer when I was in secondary school. I have studied management and know about finance. I also know about project management; those skills will be very helpful.

Moreover, I have skills in sales and networking which could be helpful if running for the position of the GCR. I want Ustinov to grow and have a really strong transition to Sheraton Park. I would like to make things as active here as they are there. I would like to continue clubs and societies and funding, and feel like we are still at HF. Thank you.

**Questions:**

*One of the challenges of trying to manage accounts is to make sure other GCR committee members are following the right cash handling procedure and have proper documentation for various different things. What techniques will you use to make sure that happens? Do you have any priorities for the most important documentation the average GCR member would have to use?*

**EJLT:** If we know the requirements of the documentation then we can teach them how to do it properly. Maybe we can make some appointments to explain the documentation and why they must keep working in a certain way.

**P:** It might be a challenge. It could be solved if we find ways of summarising procedures that are not currently working. It will make it easier for people that currently make mistakes. Formulae for certain document processes might help with that too

*You both seem like very capable candidates, and there are lots of positions still available. Would you consider running for a different position at the next GM if you do not get this one?*

**P:** I'm not aware of all the positions and there may be people that are more capable than me at the other roles. I chose the role of treasurer because this is what I would be best at.

**EJLT:** I applied for this role as I have experience in it, but yes I would consider it.

*Through the year you will have to do less pleasant things like spend a full day counting money. Are you willing to do this?*

**E:** Yes, I am happy to do things that are enjoyable, and things that are less enjoyable. I like to count money

**J:** I enjoy doing that. It is not an issue for me.

#### **d. Bar Steward**

**Candidate:** Ariam Mora-Hernández

**Manifesto:** *Try to contribute the bar staff with an comfortable environment and attend to the meetings and follow Ustinov college rules.*

**Hust:** I have been working in the bar for one year and have really enjoyed it. I am going to try and help as much as possible. I am going to try and bring whisky from Howlands and going to try to implement cocktails.

#### **Questions:**

*A lot of the Ustinov community do not drink alcohol. Will you look to bring in mocktails too?*

Yes that is the plan.

*Is there any way you can improve the bar regarding the environment?*

I do not know much about it but we can discuss it.

#### **e. Clubs and Societies Officer**

**Candidate:** Vera Bieber

**Manifesto:** *Hello! I'm Vera, one of this year's Howlands Reps, and I'm running for the role of Clubs & Societies Officer.*

*I am approaching my second year as chemistry PhD student and as such I felt that this is the ideal time to join the GCR exec. As I have been on the committee since November, I already have a general idea of how things are done. I am particularly well suited for Clubs & Societies Officer for a number of reasons: Firstly, I am a member of four societies, one of which I founded this year (table tennis). That means that it will be easy for me to assist anybody who wants to start a new society next year. As president of the table tennis society, I have already gone through a round of funding applications and I am in the process of assembling a team for the Festival of Sports, both being topics a Clubs & Societies Officer needs to be familiar with. Furthermore, I have been compiling sports updates (results and upcoming matches) for the weekly GCR newsletter since October.*

*Our clubs and societies are a great way for Ustinovians to get involved and quickly make friends. With all my positive experience regarding clubs and societies this year, I would like to take on a role where I can support and promote them even more next year. I would therefore be very grateful for your vote!*

#### **Hust:**

I am one of the current Howlands Farm Reps and am running for this position because I like clubs and societies. I am a member of four; two sports teams and two not sports related. I founded the table tennis society this year, so have the experience of this whole process. I have read everything there is to read about this. I report the results of the matches that the sports teams have as well as

advertise the upcoming matches. I think this is an important link between our societies and greater college.

**Candidate:** Honghuan Li

**Manifesto:** *Hello, everybody! My name is Honghuan Li. I am a second-year doctoral student in School of Education at Durham University. I am running the position of Clubs and Societies Officer in GCR. Back to the university time, I was the president of the Computer Society, and this year I'm the Secretary of Ustinov Hairstyle and Lifestyle Society, so I have gained some experience in the mechanisms of society running and GCR objects promotion within the Constitution. In this election campaign, I'm aiming to 1) making our sports clubs and societies more reachable to more students and encouraging them involving in various activities; 2) increasing the social activities among different clubs and societies so they can support each other in different occasions; 3) encouraging clubs and societies seeking new sponsorship or funding outside the GCR; 4) promoting the variation of the clubs and societies to meet students' needs in leisure time. I think by achieving these goals, not only the inter-relationship among clubs and societies would be boosted, but also the more united clubs and societies would indicate the fact of Ustinovian as a family. Thanks for your time to read my manifesto of Clubs and Societies Officer and feel free to get in touch with me to ask any questions about my campaign ideas by emailing me at honghuan.li@durham.ac.uk. Have a nice day!*

**Hust:**

I am secretary of the Lifestyle and Hairstyle society. As secretary I contributed a lot to the society – it won best society this year. One aim for my election is to gather people together. I would like to build relationships between the clubs and societies. MVPs for sports teams and other awards for societies would be great. I would look to bring all the sports teams together, for example by holding fitness classes.

**Questions:**

*There is an issue with engagement with Ustinov students in clubs and societies. Do you have any ideas about how you will get more people to join in?*

**H:** I just proposed a fitness club to bring people together. We could gather more people to have other societies. Next year we have a swimming pool, so maybe we can have a swimming team. We can do more societies, get people involved and make things more fun.

**V:** We can get people involved in them, let them try it out. People have fun when they try sports out. It would be good to get noticeboards so people can find out who you need to contact to join a club or societies.

*Do you have any ideas for other clubs and societies that could be fun?*

**V:** It would be good to get more societies for more sports teams. There are lots of societies outside College and lots of teams for other colleges. It would be good to get teams together. We will have a full-sized sports hall this year. I would try to help set up new societies e.g. volleyball, squash, tennis. Ustinov is not involved in them so it would be good to set them up. Also, perhaps there could be other creative societies for hobbies people have.

**H:** A swimming society. I am currently doing boxing so I could bring this to Ustinov.

*You will be sitting on Finance Committee, and you need to help get finance committee information from Clubs and Societies. How do you plan on making sure that societies are better at giving the information?*

**H:** I would need to ask Tom for advice on that and for some suggestions on that. I would need to discuss that with the Exec team.

**V:** I have been through a lot of funding requests with my own society for table tennis, so I know how it is done. I have experience communicating with Sports societies, as I have had to email at least three captains every week for the scores of their matches.

#### **f. Communications Officer**

**Candidate:** Kimberley Liu

**Manifesto:** *Hi, I am Kimberley LIU, a current GCR Committee member in Ustinov College and a PhD candidate in the Psychology department.*

*I am an international Ustinovian, and I enjoy interacting with all of my brothers and sisters in the Ustinov College family.*

*As Communications Officer I aim to keep all Ustinovians engaged and aware of the activities and information relevant to life in Ustinov College, and I believe that I can enable effective communication between the GCR Committee and all those Ustinovians who will be here next year.*

*I have a love for all types of social media, and want to help advertise different events. As an example of previous experience, I helped advertise the Christmas Castle Lunch, along with a supporting article and video. Both managed to receive many views, and I believe I can achieve similar results for the Ustinov GCR.*

*Further, I believe my ability to translate events into Mandarin and to post on the Ustinov Wechat group will help more students get involved in college activities.*

#### **Hust:**

I really like interacting with my brothers and sisters in Ustinov College, and would really like to use social media to get people involved. My aim is to get more students involved in College activities and to keep an eye on it to make it better and better. Mandarin is my mother tongue so I can advertise events on WeChat.

#### **Questions:**

*Most things are announced via Facebook. How would you ensure people know about events who are not on Facebook or WeChat?*

I would get people to inform their friends the traditional way; talk to people. Also, I would use the email.

*Are you willing to take charge of Peter Platypus?*

Yes, I am a big fan.

*One thing we have done during induction week was put posters in the kitchens. It is a significant time commitment, but would you be willing to spread posters, for example the induction week timetable?*

If I can help the students have a better life, I will do it.

#### **g. International Students' Officer**

**Candidate:** Matthew Roberts

**Manifesto:** *This will be my third year living in Durham and the UK, my first experience living abroad. I've often sought to help other international students adjust to life here in the Northeast, through practical advice on day-to-day living, volunteering for the Ustinov organised trips, and leading regular (well, semi-regular) walks and excursions into the surrounding countryside. As International Student Officer, I would seek to continue providing that sort of support and help to others coming to Ustinov from abroad, to try and help everyone (both livers-in and livers-out) discover just what makes this community such a unique experience.*

**Hust:**

I love Ustinov and I love being in the North East. I would to show people how to survive out here, and let people see what you can do out here. Ustinov is an international community, and benefits from an international spirit. It would be great if we could get more involvement from the Mexican society, Pakistani society, and any others.

**Questions:**

*The main job is to organise trips. Would you change the format? If you were going to change the format, how would you?*

I would not plan on changing it too much. This year we managed to keep things cost neutral so I would plan to continue that. Maybe I would have some smaller trips, like day trips of around fifty people.

*Are you going to do other things for example do an international food festival?*

I have asked about doing an international food festival several times – it is something that comes up every year. College says that we cannot do it. One of the ways students have managed to do it is through societies, for example the Pakistani Society has put on a spread of food in the past. Everyone wants to share their food and a piece of their home – unfortunate our hands are tied by health and safety regulations.

*A predecessor planned trips more to larger cities but trips this year that have been more successful were for example Alnwick and other places that are more difficult to get to. Instead of going to bigger towns, would you prioritise places that are more difficult to get to?*

Yes, would be my priority.

**m. Any Other Business**

Many thanks to the Executive Committee this year. We have had one of the most committed Presidents ever this year so a massive thanks to him. Also, thanks to AS for writing up enormous sets of minutes and doing a great job.

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Alastair Stewart

GCR Secretary

31/05/2018