

# CSS EGM - Minutes

Location:	Old Engineering Y3 - G34 ( <i>in-person</i> ) & Zoom ( <i>online</i> )
Date:	Wednesday 6th November 2024
Time:	13:00 GMT
Attendees:	Adi Agarwal (AA) ( <i>Chairing</i> ), Leonardo Bishop (LB) ( <i>Minuting</i> ), Joseph Adams (JA), Sabrina Ahmad (SA), Ramasubramanian Balasubramanian (RB), George Barrell (GB), Sumeet Brar (SB), Nial Dixon (ND), Jacqueline Henes (JH), Marcus Gustafsson (MG), Abigail Pain (AP), Ethan Yau (EY), Lee Alabaster, Daniel Ebbutt, Leighton Ginty, Mahima Gupta, Theo Hepburn, Imaan Iqbal, Rohit Jose, Tobias Landells, Thomas Leigh, Matthew Widdop, Evie Wilson

- 1      **Apologies** LB
  - Apologies received from Holly Packer, Lee Alabaster and Matty Widdop.
- 2      **Adoption of March 2024 AGM Minutes** LB
  - Unanimous adoption of previous minutes.
- 3      **Matters Arising** All
  - There were no matters arising.
- 4      **Chair's Report** AA
  - AA showed off some fun graphs:
    - He remarked on how we are doing the best so far in the society's history in terms of membership - 357 members so far.
    - He shows that this time last year we had 256.
  - AA reported we have had the highest attendance so far at some of our freshers events
    - CS Societies night: 220 attendees
    - Pub night: 100+ members
    - Plus good attendance at every other event.
  - AA went over some of our future planned events for this semester: NQ64, Film Night, Bouldering, CSS x AlgoSoc collaboration, Python Workshop
  - AA also announced our Bar Crawl, Christmas Meal and Discord Botathon

- AA gave thanks to all candidates ahead of time and thanked the current committee for their hard work so far.

## 5 Treasurer's Report

MW

- **Most recent statement balance: £3,162.25**
- **Actual Working Balance: £3,250.18**
- AA reported on behalf of MW that "we have m".
- AA reported our actual income per membership fee is £4.17 (minus VAT) - total income so far on memberships is £1,505.37.
- £1,273.23 has been spent on pizzas.
- AA went over our pending outgoings and incomings:
  - Outgoings: pizza and snacks reimbursements to committee members.
  - Incomings: membership money.
- AA explained that we have funds from the school which we can allocate to subsidies for events:
  - Christmas Meal: £5pp cheaper.
  - TNMoC: £17pp cheaper.
  - Travel subsidies for hackathons.
  - Per-person subsidies for the ball.

## 6 Changes and Amendments to the Constitution

AA

- No amendments were submitted for consideration ahead of time.
- AA asked the floor if there anybody had any amendments to propose. None were raised.

## 7 Election of New Committee Members

AA

- AA invited everybody to register to vote and explained the Instant Run-off Voting system.
- As no candidates who stood in advance for the First Year Rep position attended the meeting, the election of First Year Rep was conducted last.
- **Socials Secretary**
  - Candidates standing in advance: George Barrell, Dinesh Singaria, Fearn Townsend
  - **George Barrell**
    - GB introduced themselves as a Final Year student.
    - GB mentioned that they have made really good friends through CSS and that he wants to help run the events.
    - GB explained that he was on a Year in Industry last year and explained that he developed valuable skills like time management and working in a team.
    - GB mentioned that they are a scout leader at home and thus has experience liaising with third parties.
    - GB admitted they don't have experience dealing with

- the Guild but their Scout leader experience will help them.
- GB wants to run a bar crawl where everybody feels safe and secure. He also wants to work with the rest of the committee to keep the cost of events low, and also do more collaborations with societies like TeaSoc and AlgoSoc.
- Dinesh and Fearne did not attend the meeting, nor did they nominate a proxy to speak on their behalf.
- Candidates standing from the floor: Ethan Yau
- **Ethan Yau**
  - EY introduced themselves as a second year maths student.
  - EY said they're running for Socials Secretary because he enjoyed CSS events last year and wants to get involved. They also believe it's something else to do rather than sitting at home, and they want to make an impact.
  - EY also brought a load of stickers that he wants to give away.
- Question from JH: "What event would you run that CSS hasn't run before that you think there's demand for?"
  - GB mentioned we're doing a Discord Botathon and would like to run more in a similar format, perhaps with different frameworks. He agreed with EY's speech that learning new things is really valuable.
  - EY wants to emulate other societies like MechSoc and run events which attract staff, such that there is greater integration with students and staff.
- SB: "What would be your ideal bar crawl ideas?"
  - EY has not been to a bar crawl before - but he mentioned doing one around Selly Oak since there's a lot of bars there. He mentioned that it's best for freshers since that's where they'll live next year.
  - GB wants a bar crawl which is accessible and comfortable for all members. He liked the bar crawl in 2022 when it was in the city centre.
- AP: "What are your star signs?"
  - GB: Cancer
  - EY: Sagittarius
- **Results**
  - Round 1
    - George Barrell: 18; Ethan Yau: 6; Fearne Townsend: 1; Dinesh Singaria: 0; RON: 0
    - RON was eliminated.

- Round 2
  - George Barrell: 18; Ethan Yau: 6; Fearne Townsend: 1; Dinesh Singaria: 0
  - Dinesh was eliminated.
- Round 3
  - George Barrell: 18; Ethan Yau: 6; Fearne Townsend: 1
  - Fearne was eliminated.
- Round 4
  - George Barrell: 19; Ethan Yau: 6
  - Ethan was eliminated.
- Round 5
  - George Barrell: 24
  - George was the only candidate remaining.
- **George Barrell is duly elected as Socials Secretary.**
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer**
  - Candidates standing in advance: Sabrina Ahmad, Ethan Yau
  - **Sabrina Ahmad**
    - SA began by showing off their “incredible poster”.
    - SA introduced themselves as a First Year Maths and Computer Science student.
    - SA intends to code each event with an accessibility label.
    - SA mentions they are currently an EDI Rep for the School of Mathematics.
    - SA thanked the audience and also remarked they’re wearing a CSS shirt, and have stickers from all the events so far.
  - **Ethan Yau**
    - EY mentioned they’ve already introduced themselves.
    - EY said they’ll be good as EDI Officer because they’re also an EDI Rep for the School of Mathematics.
    - EY claimed they are good at listening to people and complaints, and that they are good at passing feedback on.
    - EY also believes SA is a brilliant person.
  - No candidates stood from the floor.
  - Question from JH: “One of the benefits of being EDI Rep is being invited to the School’s EDI committee - how much experience do you have talking to staff and convincing them, and what do you think computer science can improve on?”
    - SA mentioned they’re a first year and thus don’t have much experience interacting with staff. They’re also not sure how SoCS can improve.

- EY said they've got some experience talking to staff, and also remarks how students in general can be afraid of talking to staff, explaining how he managed to overcome this fear.
  - AP: "What do you think is lacking EDI-wise in CSS and want to change?"
    - SA mentioned we can make clearer channels to raise issues, or make a command on the bot. They also mention we could introduce a ticket system to reach the committee in private. They also mention utilising the student reps to distribute surveys to relay to SSFs.
    - EY was unable to think of an answer.
  - **Results**
    - Round 1
      - Sabrina Ahmad: 15; Ethan Yau: 11; RON: 0
      - RON was eliminated.
    - Round 2
      - Sabrina Ahmad: 15; Ethan Yau: 11
      - Ethan was eliminated.
    - Round 3
      - Sabrina Ahmad: 26
      - Sabrina was the only candidate remaining.
    - **Sabrina Ahmed is duly elected as EDI Officer.**
  - **Postgraduate (Taught) Rep**
    - Candidates standing in advance: Nial Dixon, Dinesh Singaria
    - **Nial Dixon**
      - ND introduced themselves as a masters (postgrad) student.
      - ND mentioned being a postgrad has its own challenge, and that postgrads need specific events to relax.
      - ND's main focus when elected is to organise more events for postgrads to help postgrads feel more included in events.
    - Dinesh did not attend the meeting, nor did they nominate a proxy to speak on their behalf.
    - Candidates standing from the floor: Ramasubramanian Balasubramanian
    - **Ramasubramanian Balasubramanian**
      - RB introduced themselves as a Masters student doing Cybersecurity.
      - RB admitted that it was a very split decision to run but they would like to get involved.
    - Question from JH: "How do you think CSS is lacking with

PGT engagement?”

- ND believes we need more postgraduate-specific events, such as more advanced workshops.
- RB admitted this is their first time here but believes we should run more sessions targeted at international students and postgrads. They also want more social and casual sessions involving staff.
- AA: “How do you plan to handle the workload of being on CSS committee and doing a masters?”
  - RB mentions they have 7 hours a week of contact hours, along with 2 hours per day of studies. They mention that they have a lot of free time to get involved.
  - ND believes they can handle the workload because they keep on top of their university schedule. They also did tutoring alongside their undergraduate degree so have experience with other commitments.
- **Results**
  - Round 1
    - Nial Dixon: 18; Ramasubramanian Balasubramanian: 3; Dinesh Singaria: 0; RON: 0
    - Dinesh was eliminated.
  - Round 2
    - Nial Dixon: 18; Ramasubramanian Balasubramanian: 3; RON: 0
    - RON was eliminated.
  - Round 3
    - Nial Dixon: 18; Ramasubramanian Balasubramanian: 3
    - Ramasubramanian was eliminated.
  - Round 4
    - Nial Dixon: 21
    - Nial was the only candidate remaining.
  - **Nial Dixon is duly elected as Postgraduate (Taught) Rep.**
- **Postgraduate (Research) Rep**
  - Candidates standing in advance: Joseph Adams
  - **Joseph Adams**
    - JA introduced themselves as a final year MSci Computer Science student.
    - JA remarked that they have been planning on doing a PhD for a couple of years. They explained that this research in doing a PhD will help with understanding the needs of PGR's..
    - JA intends to develop a “nice bridge of

communication” with PGRs, and develop a good level of understanding so they can give feedback on what they want.

- No candidates stood from the floor.
- Question from MG: “What events do you think would appeal to PGRs?”

- JA admits they are not a PGR yet, but believe they like events which gives them a break from their research. They are aware of cookie break, and would like to run events similar to that. They also believe simply working with and talking to PGRs is a good strategy to figure out what they want.

- **Results**

- Round 1

- Joseph Adams: 21; RON: 0
- RON was eliminated

- Round 2

- Joseph Adams: 21
- Joseph was the only candidate remaining.

- **Joseph Adams is duly elected as Postgraduate (Research) Rep.**

- **First Year Rep**

- Candidates standing in advance: Armaan Khaitan, Amrit Bhogal
- Neither Armaan Khaitan or Amrit Bhogal attended the meeting, nor did they nominate a proxy to speak on their behalf.
- No candidates stood from the floor.

- **Results**

- Round 1

- RON: 16; Amrit Bhogal: 5; Armaan Khaitan: 0
- Armaan was eliminated.

- Round 2

- RON: 16; Amrit Bhogal: 5
- Amrit was eliminated.

- Round 3

- RON: 18
- RON was the only candidate remaining.

- **Nobody was elected as First Year Rep.  
Nominations for this role will be reopened.**

## 8 Any Other Business

All

- AA thanked attendees for coming.
- The meeting was closed at 14:19.

**Actual start time** 13:16 GMT  
**Actual end time** 14:19 GMT  
**Duration** 1 hour and 3 minutes

**Approved** *Pending*

**Approved (by Guild)** *Pending*

Voting for elections and amendments took place on CSS' voting platform, available online at [vote.cssbham.com](https://vote.cssbham.com). This voting platform is open source and publicly auditable. Votes were cast using the instant run-off voting system, in line with policy described in the constitution.