The Anthony Powell Society

Patron: John MA Powell
President: Hugh Massingberd

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14 September 2002
Charteris Rooms, Eton College, Windsor, UK

Present: Nick Baker, Dr Nicholas Birns (NB), Ailsa Camm, Patric Dickinson, Stephen Holden, Dr Keith C Marshall (KM), Noreen Marshall (NM), Hugh Massingberd, Michael Meredith, Maggie Noach (MN), John Powell, Prue Raper (PR), Elizabeth Savidge, Michael Skaife-d'Ingerthorpe, Col PE Taylor.

Apologies: Christine Berberich, Nick Weller, Tony Robinson, AJ Tucker, Terence Empson, Gregory Thomas, George Lilley, Jason Diamond, Simon McArthur, Robin Nicholson, Richard Skilbeck, Richard Oldfield, Julian Allason, Dr Catherine Hoffmann, C Montgomery-Massingberd, Catherine Mansel Lewis, Nigel Maxwell, Victor Spouge, Chloë Teacher, Prof. Ian Young, Carol Rothkopf, Robert Bailey-King, John Monagan, Marianne van Hoeven, John Potter, Helen Davies, Jeffrey Manley, Aldon Rees, Neil Woodcock, Sue Frye, Stuart Mitchell, Peter Haley-Dunne, Barry Pike, Richard Morgan, William B Warren, Dr Olive Forbes-Madden.

1. Welcome

A. Society Chairman, Maggie Noach (MN), chairing the meeting welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Eton College.
B. The Hon. Secretary, Keith Marshall (KM) indicated that he had received apologies for absence from those members listed above.

2. Minutes of 2001 AGM

A. The minutes of the 2001 AGM and of the EGM held on 24 April 2002 had been circulated in advance of the meeting.
B. There being no matter arising both sets of minutes were approved unanimously (proposed Noreen Marshall (NM); seconded MN) and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Receive the Annual Report & Accounts

A. KM presented the Annual Report & Accounts (distributed in advance) for the period ending 31 March 2002. In reviewing the reporting period KM highlighted:
   - All the Society's events had broken even.
   - The Eton conference was a great success and broke even thanks to a grant for publication of the proceedings from The London Institute.

   - As a direct result of the Eton Conference the Powell family had decided to deposit Powell's manuscripts in the Eton College Library.
   - Steady growth in membership which at the time of the meeting stood at 183 members in 14 different countries.
   - The formation of two Local Groups in the USA (in the New York area and the Chicago area).
   - During the summer of 2002 the Society had applied for charitable status. An initial response has been received from the Charity Commissioners and detailed discussion is on-going.

B. Two pieces of sad news were received during the year.
   - Firstly, the publishers of the Dutch translation of *Dance* have regrettably abandoned the project after publishing just 4 volumes.
   - The second piece of sad news was the untimely death in January 2002 of Lady Violet Powell. The Society recorded appreciation of all the help and support which we had received from Lady Violet.

C. Looking forward, KM mentioned:
   - Organisation of the 2003 conference at Balliol College, Oxford is progressing well. Keynote speakers will include Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. A good number of paper submissions have been received with others expected before the deadline of 30 September. Some progress has been made on reducing the costs, but some external funding is still required; this is being worked on by our new PR consultant Simon Culley.
   - Preliminary planning was already underway for the 2005 conference; this is likely to be in London with a London-related theme.
   - The Society still needs to find a Social Secretary and a coordinator for the London Local Group (which could be the same person).

D. In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, KM summarised the Society's financial position. The Accounts show a loss of almost £1000 for the reporting year. However as the Treasurer points out in his report this is because the reporting period included most of the Eton conference expenses, the income having been received in the previous period. The Executive has agreed to underwrite the cost of the 2003 conference if necessary as this is the Society's flagship event -- the conference fee has to be carefully balanced as neither enthusiasts nor academics want to pay high delegate fees; however the Society has to exist in a commercial environment and incur the costs which are consequential on such independence. Similarly there is a desire to keep the membership subscription as low as possible.

E. Nick Birns (NB) asked about the possibility of distributing the *Newsletter* electronically (as a PDF file). KM agreed to look at this although the members feel that the printed *Newsletter* appears better value for money.
Action: KM

F. MN mentioned mailing companies which may be able to undercut the Post Office on mailing costs, however both MN and KM suspect we may be too

small for this to be advantageous. However KM agreed to investigate this too. **Action: KM**

B. KM and MN proposed formal adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts, and this was unanimously agreed (all present, plus 19 proxy votes in favour, plus 10 "open" proxy votes which the Chairman of the meeting cast in favour).

4. Election of Society Officers

A. The following nominations had been received:
Chairman: Maggie Noach
Secretary: Dr Keith Marshall
Treasurer: Prof. Ian Young
There being no other nominations the above were re-elected unopposed.

5. Elect up to 4 Committee Members

A. Stephen Holden, Leatrice Fountain, Dr Nicholas Birns and Tony Robinson had been nominated.
There being no other nominations these four were re-elected unopposed as Committee members.

6. Any Other Business

A. Prue Raper (PR) asked about advertising for the 2003 conference as she had not heard about the Eton conference until after the event. KM replied that advertising would be done by creating press interest (Simon Culley's job) as box adverts etc. do not seem to be good value for money.

B. PR also asked about non-members attending the conference. KM indicated that as for Eton we would offer an attractive discount for members such that it will be advantageous for non-members to join the Society rather than pay the non-members delegate fee. KM also outlined the modular way in which the conference is being planned so that each element is separately bookable and separately priced.

C. Michael Skaife-d'Ingerthorpe raised the problem of parallel elective sessions at the conference and the consequence of missing some elements of the conference. KM responded that the proceedings would be published after the conference (as for Eton) and every delegate will receive a copy. However at this time no decisions had been made on the final conference format and we would continue to look at the best (in terms of organisation and value for money) ways of putting the conference together.

D. MN suggested that we have a lunch at the Wallace Collection followed by a less formal opportunity to see the Wallace's collections (perhaps with a possible short talk by a member about the Poussin painting). This would be in December as a celebration of AP's birthday and the Powell's Wedding Anniversary. MN will do the organisation for this. Saturday 07 December 2002 was suggested as a suitable date. **Action: MN**

E. Michael Meredith and Nick Baker were thanked for their, and Eton's, hospitality in hosting the AGM. (Proposed Stephen Holden, seconded NM; unanimously agreed.)

The meeting was followed by an opportunity for those present to see some of Powell's typescripts which are now in the Eton College Library. Michael Meredith and Nick Baker gave a short introductory talk on the discoveries they have made, from the Powell typescripts, of the way in which Powell revised his work in progress. Members were also able to see the College's current exhibition, *The Kings and Queens of England*, in honour of Her Majesty's Golden Jubilee. This was followed by afternoon tea.