The Anthony Powell Society

Registered Charity No.: 1096873

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Saturday 20 September 2003
Fitzroy Tavern, 16 Charlotte Street, London W1, UK

Present: Prof. Edwin Bock, Patric Dickinson, John Gleiber, Dr Catherine Hoffmann, Stephen Holden, Richard Howarth, Kevin Jewell, Dr George Lilley, David Lowis, Dr Keith C Marshall, Noreen Marshall, Maggie Noach, Prue Raper, Tony Robinson, Elizabeth Savidge, Prof. Robert Smith, Victor Spouge, Elwin Taylor.

Apologies: Peter Bailey, Dr Nick Baker, Liza Bennett, Sonia Berry, Dr Nicholas Birns, Christine Berberich, Dr Lisa Colletta, Raymond Comyn, David Bryant, Helen Davies, Jason Diamond, Colin Donald, Terry Empson, John Evans, Dr Olive Forbes-Madden, Peter Haley-Dunne, Malcolm Herring, Marianne Hinton, Michael Hodges, Philip Ivory, Hans Johansson, Alan Judd, James MacKay, Catherine Mansel Lewis, Hugh Massingberd, Nigel Maxwell, Simon McArthur, Dr Neil McEwan, Dr Derek Miles, John Monagan, John Monaghan, Richard Morgan, Mona O'Rourke, Dr Peter Payan, Barry Pike, John Potter, Stephen Pyskoty-Olle, Jeanne Reed, Aldon Rees, Regina Rehbinder, Dr John Roe, Carol Rothkopf, Keeley Schell, Michael Skaife d'Ingerthorpe, Richard Skilbeck, Cathleen Steg, Fletcher Stiers, Chloe Teacher, Susan Thomson, James Tucker, Jeremy Warren, Nick Weller, WM West, Charles Whaley, Kathleen White, Prof. Ian Young.

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

A. The Society Chairman Maggie Noach welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. The Hon. Secretary Keith Marshall indicated that he had received apologies for absence from those members listed above.

2. Minutes of 2002 AGM

A. The minutes of the 2002 AGM had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

B. Keith Marshall responded to the actions on the previous minutes. The idea of electronic distribution of the *Newsletter* is still perceived generally as less value for money than a printed *Newsletter*, however this is kept under review. The use of a mailing company has been tried with the Autumn 2003

Newsletter; whether to continue this will be discussed by the Executive, but it may not be financially viable yet.

C. There being no other matters arising the minutes were approved unanimously and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Receive the Annual Report & Accounts

A. The Annual Report 2003 had been circulated to members in advance and was presented to the meeting by Keith Marshall.

B. The year 01 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 was summarised as being a foundational year with efforts being put in to working towards charitable status, the Oxford conference and John Monagan's monograph on his friendship with Powell (the Society's first non-conference publication). All three of these were realised shortly after the end of the year.

C. Keith Marshall expressed thanks to all the team responsible for the success of the Oxford conference and to Tony Robinson who led the work to achieve charitable status.

D. Membership had grown by 25% over the year, although a significant number of members have not renewed their membership this year.

E. The Society's *Newsletter* continues to expand under the guidance of Stephen Holden.

F. There are three active local groups which meet regularly.

G. Looking ahead Keith Marshall saw the remainder of the current year as being a further period of laying foundations and working towards Powell's centenary in 2005. Work on the centenary is already in hand: preparations are underway for the centenary conference and the Society has been asked to take a major role in the realisation of a Powell centenary exhibition at the Wallace Collection. Nick Birns is also working on a programme of centenary events.

H. The Annual Report 2003 was accepted unanimously.

4. Accounts 2002-2003

A. In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Keith Marshall briefly presented the accounts for the last period.

B. As the Treasurer's Report shows, the Society ended the period with a healthy profit on the year, although this is misleading as it contains the majority of the conference income but few of the expenses. When finalised the Oxford conference is expected to show a modest profit which will be used to underwrite future conferences.

C. It was noted that the value of subscriptions was lower in 2002-3 than in 2001-2. Keith Marshall explained that this was due to the introduction of allowing members to pay several years subscription in advance and that a number of members who had joined for the Eton conference had not renewed their memberships.

D. There being no further questions the accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Appointment of John S Monagan as Society Vice-President

A. Former Congressman John S Monagan was a long-time friend of Anthony Powell and has been a valued supporter of the Society since its inception. He has also contributed his monograph *The Master and The Congressman* to the Society. In consequence the Executive Committee felt it appropriate that John Monagan be made a Vice-President of the Society.

B. John Monagan's appointment as a Society Vice-President was approved unanimously.

6. Amendment of the Constitution

A. The Charity Commission have asked that clause G(1)b of the constitution be amended to read as below (change highlighted) as it is otherwise considered open to confusion.
*"not less than 1 (one) and not more than **6 (six)** members elected at the annual general meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting."*

B. This amendment to the Society's Constitution was approved unanimously.

7. Election of Executive Officers

A. Maggie Noach and Ian Young having indicated that they wished to stand down as Chairman and Treasurer respectively the following have been nominated as the Executive Officers for the forthcoming year:
Chairman: Patric Dickinson
Hon. Secretary: Dr Keith C Marshall
Hon. Treasurer: Kevin Jewell

B. There being no other nominations received by the due date of 28 July 2003 these candidates were duly elected.

C. Stephen Holden proposed a vote of thanks to both Maggie and Ian for their hard work as officers of the Society. This was seconded by Keith Marshall who also paid tribute to the work done by Maggie and Ian. The proposal was unanimously approved.

8. Election of Executive Committee Members

A. The amendment to the Constitution having been approved, up to six Executive Committee Members could be elected.

B. The following six candidates were duly nominated by the due date of 28 July 2003: Christine Berberich, Dr Nicholas Birns, Leatrice Fountain, Stephen Holden, Antony Robinson, Prof. Ian Young.

C. These being the only nominations all six candidates were duly elected.

9. Questions from the Floor

A. George Lilley asked for further details of the 2005 Centenary Conference. Keith Marshall replied that, short of unforeseen problems, the conference would be at the Wallace Collection, of 2 days duration (probably a Friday and Saturday). Exact dates had not yet been confirmed but it was hoped to make an announcement in the Winter 2003 *Newsletter*.

B. Keith Marshall also indicated that discussions were on-going with Random House (owners of William Heinemann, Powell's publisher) concerning a publication to mark Powell's centenary. These discussions are at a preliminary stage, with a number of options on the table. An announcement will be made in due course.

C. Prue Raper asked about the possibility of the re-screening of the Channel 4 films of *Dance* and about availability of the videos of the films. As to the videos, Keith Marshall replied that they have now been reissued, along with a DVD version, and are available through Amazon UK and other video outlets. No plans are known for the re-screening of the Channel 4 films, however it is likely this will be one avenue explored amongst other centenary events.

D. Keith Marshall has also been attempting to negotiate with the BBC over release of the 1970s/80s radio dramatisation of *Dance*, which was rebroadcast on BBC digital radio earlier in the year. So far this has been unfruitful.

E. In response to another question Keith Marshall provided some initial feedback from the recent Members' Survey. Although the detailed results have not yet been compiled the responses do contain many good ideas for the future of the Society and the 2005 centenary. The responses will be considered by the Executive Committee in the near future.

Following the formal business of the meeting Patric Dickinson and Dr Catherine Hoffman presented revised versions of the papers they presented on the second day of the Oxford Conference. The papers were followed by a discussion.

Patric Dickinson
Richmond Herald, College of Arms, London
Effortless Superiority? Some Social Comparisons between Powell & Waugh

Dr Catherine Hoffmann
University of Le Havre, France
Life in Limbo: Jenkins at University
