The Open University Club

Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday 3rd July 2025 at 11.3am via Teams.

Present: Natalie Gaffey (Chair), Tracey Bean-Martin (Treasurer), Louise Thomas (Committee member), Jo Dyer (Committee member), Melanie Stickland (Committee member), Cybelle Batcup (Committee member), Aqueel Wahga (Committee member) and Deb Shann (Secretary).

In Attendance: Representatives from the affiliated clubs, Noel Fernandes (Business Services & Planning Manager) and Susan Scimè (Club Coordinator).

Apologies:

1.0 **WELCOME**

1.1 Noted: The Chair welcomed all present.

2.0 **MINUTES**

2.1 Confirmed: That the minutes of the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Open University Club held on Thursday 11th July 2024 were approved.

3.0 **MATTERS ARISING**

4.0 **CHAIR'S REPORT (NG)**

4.1 Noted: Chairs report attached.

4.2 Noted: NG thanked everyone for their time for supporting their clubs and members of the committee.

4.3 Noted: NG thanked Estates and Events for all they do to support the clubs.

4.4 Noted: NG thanked Susan and Noel for all their support and work for the affiliated clubs.

4.5 Noted: NG reported that risk assessments for affiliated clubs are still needed, they are part of the OU Club constitution and are required by OU policy. Please report any risk assessment issues to the OU Club office.

4.6 Noted: NG reminded clubs that all Affiliated Clubs must submit AGM reports on an annua basis with financial reports where appropriate. We are aware that Voluntary Severance leavers will be affecting clubs' committees and ask that you check that you have the required numbers of Executive members on your committees and check all signatories on your bank accounts are kept updated.

5. TREASURERS REPORT (TBM)

5.1 Noted: Treasurers report attached.

5.2 Noted: Tracey reported for the financial year 2024/25 the OU Club was awarded a total budget of £69.5K. With £59.2K allocated to the subvention budget line. We will be reporting an underspend of around £9K.

5.3 Noted: We have received several requests to simplify the bid request form, and this is something that Tracey is actively looking into.

5.4 Noted: A question was asked about the OU Club budget being agreed for the next 3 years, as mentioned in the 2024 OU Club AGM minutes. We are asked to forecast the budget 3 years ahead and then the actual budget is agreed each year.

5.5 Noted: Another question about how much OU Club money is paid to MK based clubs – most of the money is paid to MK affiliated clubs and it depends on which clubs submit bids. MK based clubs are open to staff in the regions/nations.

5.6 Noted: NG thanked Tracey for her hard work looking after the finances.

6. ENTERTAINMENT (Ents) CHAIR'S REPORT

6.1 Noted: The Ents Chair's report is attached.

6.2 Noted: We are extending our events to non-OU staff who are tenants on the WH campus as part of the wider offer available to them.

6.3 Noted: JD has worked with colleagues in other locations, where possible, to deliver events UK-wide, the online quizzes are a great example of OU-Club evolving to meet the needs of the changed nature of an OU hybrid workforce predominantly dispersed across the UK.

6.4 Noted: JD asked about an OU Club Teams area and this will be investigated, one has been created and is not yet being used by the affiliated clubs.

6.5 Noted: NG thanked Jo for her hard work looking after OU Club entertainments.

7. SPORTS REPORT

7.1 Noted: Sports Chair's report attached.

7.2 Noted: Aqueel reported that the number of members is increasing in in many of the affiliated sports clubs.

7.3 Noted: Many of the sports clubs have thanked the Estates staff for their work in keeping the facilities in very good condition.

7.4 Noted: NG thanked Aqueel for the Sports report.

8. AFFILIATED CLUB REPORTS

8.1 Noted: NG thanked Louise (again) for compiling the affiliated club reports and thanked all clubs who had sent in a report. Natalie encouraged staff to read the affiliated clubs report.

9. NATIONS/REGIONS CLUB REPORTS

9.1 Noted: The nations and regions report attached.

9.2 Noted: NG thanked Stephen for the creating the nations/regions report and it's good news that the Cardiff office have re-started their social club.

10. Business Services & Planning Manager Estates (NF) on behalf of the Director of Estates

10.1 Noted: Report attached.

10.2 Noted: NG thanked Estates staff and the Events office for all their hard work supporting the affiliated clubs.

10.3 Noted: Noel thanked all of the OU Club committee members for being on the committee.

10.4 Noted: We would like to encourage the Walton Hall tenants staff to get involved with OU affiliated clubs and we have contacted the clubs to ask them if they will accept non-OU staff to join their clubs.

11. ELECTIONS

11.1 Reported: That at the closing date, nominations for Officers and Committee members to serve on the Club Committee for the year 1st August 2025 to 31st July 2026 had been received as follows, and that all those nominated were elected unopposed. The AGM voted by raising hands to support the following nominations.

Club Role	Name	Proposer	Seconder
CLUB CHAIR	Natalie Gaffey	Louise Thomas	Deb Shann
ENTS CHAIR	Jo Dyer	Melanie Stickland	Louise Thomas
TREASURER	Tracy Bean-Martin	Louise Thomas	Aqueel Wahga
SPORTS CHAIR	Aqueel Wahga	Tracy Bean-Martin	Louise Thomas
SECRETARY	Deb Shann	Louise Thomas	Tracy Bean-Martin
Committee Member	Melanie Stickland	Louise Thomas	Jo Dyer
Committee Member	Tony Coyne	Tim Hunt	Louise Thomas
Committee Member	Louise Thomas	Tracy Bean-Martin	Tony Coyne
Committee Member	Cybelle Batcup	Louise Thomas	Melanie Stickland
Committee Member AL representative	Mike Hays	Jo Dyer	Louise Thomas

12. RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

12.1 The Chair advised that there are committee places available for reps from the Manchester, Nottingham, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh offices, so please get in touch and talk to current members if you are interested in joining. You can be released from your OU work for up to 3 days per year for OU Club work.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Jo asked about new committee members and what we can do to get new OU staff involved on the OU Club committee, there are no new committee members for 2025-2026. Jo asked if we can we share a list of OU Club committee members ahead of the AGM.

13.2 Natalie suggested that the Club committee discuss recruiting new members at their next meeting.

13.3 The OU Club constitution has been reviewed and will be sent to the OU Governance team for approval.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 As per the constitution, the next AGM will be held on the first Thursday in July 2026 (7th July 2026, 7th July 2027 and 6th July 2028).

14.2 We are looking to rotate the day on which the AGM is held, so it will alternate between a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday so it doesn't affect clubs who always meet on the same day.

Deb Shann
OU Club Committee Secretary 25th July 2025