



TRINITY HALL
ASSOCIATION

Proposal for Committee Membership for Trinity Hall Association AGM 2020.

The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in the usual THA activities having reduced significantly. The committee has continued to meet (virtually) but it has not been possible to hold events since March nor has it been possible for the THA Award winners to carry out their projects.

It has also proven impossible to recruit new committee members in the COVID-19 climate. When the committee met in June, we agreed that we should make no changes to the committee this year but that the practice of two members retiring and a new president being elected should resume in 2021, irrespective of the COVID-19 situation. At the AGM we will be proposing the re-election of the existing officers and will not be announcing any retirements. I am grateful to the committee for their flexibility and support in these exceptional circumstances.

It is worth noting that this is not the first time the normal pattern of retirements as laid out in the Rules of the Association has been departed from in exceptional circumstances.

There are two other reasons why we are seeking stability at the moment.

The first is that the life of the College has been seriously disrupted by the crisis and the outlook is by no means certain. We are in discussion with the Alumni Office to determine how best the Association can serve the needs of the college and the students at this difficult time. I believe an experienced committee will help this process.

The second is that a member of the Association has made a legal claim against both the Association and David Billett, the secretary. Having discussed this as a committee we believe that we must defend this claim which is complex and relates to General Data Protection Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act. A firm of solicitors has been instructed to act for both the Association and the secretary. The Association will be bearing the costs for the Association and for David. The committee will seek to keep all costs relating to the case or related matters to a reasonable amount and to reclaim costs if there is an opportunity. We are not making financial assumptions about the outcome of the case.

I would like the legal issue to be resolved before handing over to a new president – another reason for proposing no changes to the committee in this difficult year.

My thanks go to the committee their support throughout the past twelve months.

RA McKinlay

THA President

8 September 2020