**Yale Club of London**

**AGM**

Tuesday, 20th October 2015; 19:15

Norton Rose Fulbright LLP

3 More London Riverside, SE1 2AQ

Minutes

Attending: Joe Vittoria (President)

Anica Alvarez Nishio (Secretary/Speaker Series)

Denise Holle (Treasurer/DOS)

Samar Abbas (Membership)

Richard Burston (ASC)

Nixi Cura (Bulldog Internship Programme)

James Ford (Singing Groups/Young Alums)

Margaret Glover (DOS)

Anna Grotberg (Grad Schools)

Anant Jani (AYA Rep/Yale International Alliance SIG)

Yanni Legbelos (AYA Delegate/Mentoring Initiative)

Ryan Mathais (SOM/Finance SIG)

Zheela Qaiser (YaleTech; guest: Ahmaed Abdullah)

Marco Severi (SOM/Finance SIG)

Victoria Stainsby (Tastes and Tipples)

Apologies: Alex Burston (ASC)

Renata Cesar (Yale International Alliance)

Scott Fletcher (Country Walks)

Karen Go (Yale Women London)

Erik Gustafson (Christmas Dinner/DOS)

Farouk Hadeed (Speaker Series)

Kevin Irwin (Quiz Night)

Lavanya Raghavan (Legal)

Alice Shyy (Young Alums/YaleTech)

Beatrice Spengos (Art Circle)

Members:

Kyle Black\*

Marios Falaris\*

Brooke Fitzgerald

Sakari ‘Saku’ Deichsel

Yasmine Hafiz

Theodore Kim

Justine Kolata

Preston Lewis

Jez Marston

Natasha Moore

Liv Nilssen

Megha Okhai

David Oppenheim

David Rollier

Rob Struckett\*

Mahima Sukhdev\*

Jamison Suter

Levent Tuzun

Lindsay Uniat\*

Mattia Villa\*

Ricarda S. Weiler

\* did not sign register

1. Welcome and Apologies (JV) – as noted above
2. Minutes of the 2014 were proposed by Nixi Cura (NC) and seconded by Margaret Glover (MG). Unanimous approval.
3. Annual Review (JV) – Joe thanked everyone for the hard work they have done for the Club over the past year. He acknowledged we have much to be proud of, but also would like the club to keep growing. He particularly thanked Denise for bringing the Club’s finances into regularity and for making sure we keep to the new Rules and Regulations when planning events, etc. and Richard Burston for the stellar work he has done with the ASC (and pointed out that Yale was giving him an award this year in honour of is work). He also thanked Bonaire Le for his work ont eh website before he moved back to America, Beatrice Spengos for her work with the Art Circle, Karen Go for Yale Women, and James Ford and Alice Shyy for their work across a number of initiatives, and for all the great speaker, theatre, music and other events we have held. He reiterated that all members are welcome to come forward with any initiatives of personal interest.
4. Matters Arising: Election of Officers (JV) – Joe once again mentioned the idea of deputies and explained that this not need to be a formal role. If a member was interested they simply cud be copied in on the emails of the person who currently holds that position to see what it entails before deciding whether or not they would like to move forward – can be a halfway step, with full ability to decline any further involvement. He asked whether anyone would like to propose themselves for any of the three roles. No one came forward. He then stepped down and Anica Alvarez Nishio (AAN) asked whether anyone would like to propose JV for President. Richard Burston (RB) proposed. Anna Grotberg (AG) seconded. Unanimously elected. Joe then took the meeting again and asked for someone to propose Denise for Treasurer. Ryan Mathias proposed. David Rollier seconded. Unanimously elected. He then proposed Anica for Secretary. Samara Abbas seconded. Unanimously elected.
5. Treasurer’s Report (DVH) – We have completed our 2015 annual accounts. This is the second period we have filed with HMRC (two slightly different time periods, as a result of when the group was officially founded). In the first period ending June 30th 2014, we ran many events but did not quite get our charging right, so incurred a loss of £2,160. In the second period (year ending June 30th 2015), total income doubled, despite the shorter period as a result of more accurate pricing and slightly higher membership dues and the Club booked surplus of £783. The YCL now runs pretty much at breakeven, or a small surplus, in line with the policies agreed in March. Broadly, membership fees should cover administration costs. She thanked RB for putting us in touch with the accounting firm RPG Crouch Chapman, which has reviewed bothperiods’ accounts. Reserves are now officially maintained: our target is about £11K, while our minimum should be one’s year’s operating costs, about £5K. The YCL is always open to a review of the budget and to considering a fundraising drive in light of new initiatives.
6. Membership Report (SA) – Over the past two years we have streamlined the membership levels, no longer having an Intermediate level. 949 members are listed on the website, with 254 of these currently listed as active and paid up. Many people let their memberships lapse inadvertently (much of this due to the way the Wild Apricot has set the website to contact them), and only notice they are lapsed when they want to book to attend an event. Approximately 700 people have been active in the last 24 months. We have had 108 new members in the last 12 months, of these 66 were Junior members (5 years from graduation), 38 Senior members and 5 Other (our AYA contacts in New Haven, etc.) We had 131 new members the year before, so year on year we are maintaining about the same rate. Of the 949, 647 are Yale College, therefore approximately one-third are Grad Schools, of which 61 (about one-fifth) are SOM. 55% are members 15 years or less from graduation, so that is very healthy. Of the active members, the proportion who are Juniors goes up. Samar thanked by the board for all he has done over the past year to sort out membership – previously one of the Club’s biggest weak points.
7. Alumni Schools Committee [ASC] (RB) – The ASC exists to support Yale admissions for undergraduates. There are 100s of ASCs around the world, but ours is one of the most active. Last year we had 426 applicants, which was 1.5%of the Yale applicants anywhere in the world, with 35 acceptances, which at 8.2% is higher than the general yale admit rate of 6.5%. There are 150 ASC members, who do between 1 and 10 interviews each per year. RB thanked all those who give their time to interview. We work extensively with the Sutton Trust, a programme that attracts young people from the state school system and guides them to top universities, not just Yale. Lots of these young people now apply and get in. Of this year’s admits, 12 were state school students. We also have a high matriculation rate: the overall rate is 65%, but in the UK it is 89%. Objectives of the ASC: 1) Make sure every applicant gets an interview. Statistically you are more likely to get in if you are interviewed. We have one of if not the highest interview rates in the world. 2) Spread the name of Yale. Often an interview is the only front line contact applicants have with the university, so their experience is very important. 3) Support Rebekah Westphal, who is the Admissions Officer for the UK. Make sure the interview reports are good and helpful. A person who interviews should be competent, and RB and RW run seminars for those who would like to take up interviewing or improve their skills. There is also lots of information available on the website. Activities: Fulbright Fair, school visits, party for interviewers, matriculant event. New developments: Alex Burston is now helping and has improved systems and communication, especially with New Haven. The ASC is always recruiting new interviewers, especially from younger alums. Woud like to look into doing a Book Award, which is a way of going to a school to provide an award to a student of merit and initiate a relationship with a student. Contact: [alexburston@gmail.com](mailto:alexburston@gmail.com) or richard.burston@which.net
8. Association of Yale Alumni [AYA] – The annual conference takes place each year right before The Game. Thepurpose is to help alumni connect, get training, learn from each other’ssuccesses.
   1. 2014 Assembly: Report (AJ and YL for AS) – The theme was Entrepreneurship at Yale. 567 alums attended. Student and faculty companies raised $120M and created more than 380 jobs.
   2. 2015 Assembly: introduce delegate (YL) – The year’s theme is Public Health. YL and AJ will be attending.
9. Internships
   1. Bulldogs (NC) – The Bulldog programme was a founding part of the Yale International Summer Experience Programme, and has gone through periods of strength and weakness. Students used to have to fund themselves, which made the programme self selecting, but that is no longer the case, and there are funds available. It run by the Office of Career Strategy in conjunction with NC. Nine-week internships are provided by alumni. Last year we had only 11, quite low and a result of both the financial crash and EU employment regulation. The latter has now been sorted, thanks to BUNAC, an intermediary company Yale ahs hired to help companies who want an intern to have one with no admin burden and potentially at no cost to themselves (although a modest stipend for lunches or travel is appreciated. This is primarily for smaller and start-up companies. Larger companies could be more generous.) Four of the current internships are in non-profits. Interns need some supervision and need to have a proper project, with real aims and goals, the freedom to work independently but with consistent oversight. If a member would like to be involved with the programme but cannot provide an internship, there are other ways you can get involved (planning or helping with an event, so simply attending one, etc.). The OCS would like to add an event to the regular programme of three (Welcome Party, Country Walk, Goodbye Party) which would have a element of learning about English society. Internships do not need to be in London. Yale offers housing. Contact: [NCura@christies.edu](mailto:NCura@christies.edu)
   2. Oxford interns (AJ) – For MD/MBA, MBA and MPH for students between their 1st and 2nd years. 10 week programme at Oxford. Interns are paid via Yale, so no special visa is required. AJ is coordinating with Howard Forman at SOM. Start Summer 2016. Will coordinate with NC. Contact: anant.r.jani@gmail.com
10. Singing Groups (JF) – Each year 5-15 groups come through London, looking for gigs, homestays, public concerts. JF has been compiling a list of these, but anyone with any ideas, contacts, etc., please get in touch: [james.ford@aya.yale.edu](mailto:james.ford@aya.yale.edu) Tangible objective for this year: a YCL gig, perhaps to overlap with another event. Do please get in touch with James if you have ideas.
11. Taste and Tipples (VS) – Has started slowly, with some events being more popular than others. Biggest success was wine tasting with Jamison Suter. JE’90, FES’93 This had a fundraising element and raised £700 – would like future events to be fun but with a purpose. There will be a champagne tasting event in January. Would like to do a six-week rolling programme of events, from the champagne tasting to Feb Club, all with a food theme, in aid of food-related charities in London. Will speak with NC and BS about art-related food events, etc. Please contact: vstainsby@hotmail.com
12. Website
    1. Coordinator (AAN) – Jez Marston has very kindly agreed to help with this.
    2. US Alumni website (VS) – This is a pan-US universities site, with very useful information about venues, spaces for hire, etc. We can also post events where we wish to invite an extended network (to boost numbers etc). www.usalumniuk.ning.com
13. Young Alums (JF/AS) – Young Alums is, ever, going great guns with a number of well-received events of all sizes throughout the year. Would like to help support even younger alums to set up events. This can be as simple as putting some money behind the bar at a pub. Get in touch with James for more info: james.ford@aya.yale.edu
14. Upcoming events:
    1. SOM/Finance SIG Inaugural Event: Social Finance Panel (MS/RM) – SIG set up to create networks and relationships, both amongst those working in finance and those simply interested in it. Hope to do both formal and informal events. Inaugural event November 3rd. All welcome. Over 60 people attending so far. NC to speak with RM and MS about internships. Contact: [Ryan.Mathias@rbs.co.uk](mailto:Ryan.Mathias@rbs.co.uk) or marco.severi@gmail.com
    2. SOM Speaker Series: Robert Shiller (MS/RM) – November 12th
    3. The Game – November 21st, 7.30 pm GMT (2.30 EST). Harvard has not contacted Joe yet with venue details, so watch the website.
    4. Christmas Dinner: 1 December (EG) – mark your diaries. Polish Club has strict 80 person capacity.
    5. Eli Yale Spring Party (VS) – Would like to have another big party in the annual calendar (besides Christmas Dinner), to reflect our identity, special interest groups, bring in new people. 6 April was Elihu Yale’s birthday. He was an inveterate traveler. Would like event to raise money to fund travel bursaries, so students from the UK could come back and visit families.
    6. Day of Service : 7 May 2016 (MG) – Lots of people took part last year at an event with Into University. IU works with primary and secondary school students who are the first generation to go to any university, sometimes just to stay in school til 18. MG set up panels on different topics, then had students break out into small workshops where mentors helped them work on core skills: letters of introduction, CVs, personal presentation/voice work, etc. Alice Memminger (SOM), who works with Uprising, and Holly Hayes (YSD) prepped reps from each of the IU sites to present their feedback on the day at the plenary session. For many it was the first time they had spoken in Public. Part of the experience was to travel across London and meet peers from another side of the city – eye-opening for many of the students. This year would like to do something which would incorporate younger alums and families. Does anyone know of a charity which would genuinely benefit from a work force of 35 people – gardening? Painting, etc? All ideas welcome: glo.mar.eli@gmail.com
    7. Quiz Night: Kevin Irwin organising. Watch emails for invitation. Straw poll showed January was preferable.
15. AOB
    1. Mentoring (YL)–
       1. Mentoring programme: The goal of a YCL mentoring programme is to create the conditions for mutually beneficial mentoring relationships to flourish between Yale alums of all ages. This is not just a traditional career mentorship concep,t but one that touches upon all personal drivers of self-actualization, that can lead to great professional and personal success. To jumpstart this programme we propose the following steps.
          1. Sharing & Vision session (to be planned): A short 2-hour session in which alums interested in being mentors or mentees can join to share the vision for what a successful mentorship is. The co-ordinator will share a tried and tested framework of how mentorsing works with anecdotal examples, and invite the participants to share their own experience.
          2. An informal matching process: Each prospective mentor and mentee will share their personal expectations with the co-ordinator and the co-ordinator will arrange informal matching conversations.
          3. Keeping track of success: The mentorship coordinator will then keep track of experiences of both mentors and mentees and advise on ways of enhancing the programme.
       2. YCL Mentoring Outreach Service: In the spirit of Yale's culture of service, a mentorship culture can also allow us to further give back to the community we live in, which can be a further very powerful avenue for growth for us. Inspired by the 2015 Yale Day of Service in London, we are exploring co-operation with city organizations for mentoring underprivileged youth.
    2. YaleTechLondon: Zheela Qaiseris working with Alice Shyy to establish a branch of YaleTech in London. The idea is to bridge the gap between the tech and non-tech communities: very inclusive, includes start-ups of all kids, very much not just for the super-techy. Holding an informal soft launch: Wednesday, 28 October; Jago Bar at Second Home, 7.30-9.30, free, just bring money for the cash bar: contact: [zheelaqaiser@gmail.com](mailto:zheelaqaiser@gmail.com) or [alice.shyy@aya.yale.edu](mailto:alice.shyy@aya.yale.edu)
    3. Beatrice Spengos has been working with Nixi Cura and Nicholas Roman Lewis to the Yale Art Alumni Leagues (art-orientated Special Interest Group).
    4. Preston Lewis made the point that with pricing of events, membership levels and all other initiatives the YCL should be thinking broadly for our long-term strategy. We should find one or two causes that we can build on, year on year. Then we can build fundraising year on year for a clear purpose. Some fundraising will be opportunistic, especially in the initial stages. Other fundraising can be specific. We should not be worried about the learning opportunities that come from trying new things (auctioning tickets, etc.), some of which will work, some of which won’t. This could be linking to Day of Service. He proposed a working group to look at this to try to identify some broad principles and a specific cause. Contact: Preston.Lewis@warnerbros.com
16. Date of next Management Committee meeting: Monday, 18 January 2016, 130 Jermyn Street, W1.