**Yale Club of London**

**AGM**

**Cordium, 130 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 4UR**

**15 October 2018; 19.00**

**Agenda**

**Attending**:

Joe Vittoria (President)

Marco Severi (Treasurer)

Anica Alvarez Nishio (Secretary)

Fredua Akusa

Ivan Kirwan-Taylor

James Ford (Singing Groups; Young Alums)

Kyoung Kim (Art Circle)

Margaret Glover

Melissa Merryweather

Nikita Tsukanov

Nixi Cura (Art Circle; Bulldogs; Country Walks)

Philippe Costeletos (Mentoring)

Rasmus Hoegh

Rok Petric

Samantha Glass

Teoman Ayas (with Gerhild)

Victoria Allen Stainsby (ASC; Country Walks)

Xiaolu Yang

**Regrets**:

Amy Khlor (Cambridge; Music)

Anant Jani (Oxfors; YIA)

Dimitrios Tosmoscos

May Gibson (Theatre Circle)

Richard Burston (ASC)

Teddy Kim

1. Welcome and thanks to new/increasingly active volunteers
2. Chairman’s Report (JV) : We have done very well, even better than last year. Still would like to do better. Did major GDPR exercise earlier this year. (See Membership note below.) Current members are about 10% of possible members in entire UK. So, about the right number. Generally, fantastic work. Would like to get more people involved, especially at the top. PC: How are we doing at recruiting recent grads? JF: Should reach out through LSE programme.
3. Treasurer’s Report (MS) : Profitable for the 5th consecutive year. Major source of income has been GDPR exercise. Has resulted in people stepping up and paying their fees. Diminishing revenues from events, though. We are having fewer paying events. This does not impact profitability, as events are organized to be self paying. This might flag up that we may need more volunteers and more ideas. One of the usual questions is what are we going to do with this cash? Happy to underwrite some events when there is need for that. Everyone is free to step forward with an idea. We only ask that people do a really short analysis, for which there is a form, to help with costings. Accounts are issued and certified every year.
4. Elections
	1. President: MS nominated JV; JF seconded. NV nominated JF; AAN seconded. JV elected unanimously. Secretary: JV nominated AAN; PC seconded. Elected unanimously. Treasurer: JV nominated MS; NC seconded. Elected unanimously.
	2. Shadowing: PC agreed to shadow JV; MM agreed to shadow AAN; KK agreed to shadow MS.
5. THE Game -- 17th November : We host THE Game jointly with Harvard. This year we are organizing b/c we won last year. Needs a couple of people to help organize. PC will help. Venue: Bedford Street. JV to send out a Save the Date tonight. JF: could we make it more affordable. Harvard guys like to make a bit of money out of it, but JV up for lowering the price. Have tried all sorts of things to get people to pay ahead of time inc higher price on the door, but it doesn’t seem to work. Will keep trying. There has also been interest from Princeton in doing a similar event.
6. Christmas Dinner – MS has been working with a group to come up with new proposals for the Christmas Dinner. Four possible venues. Anticipated 27th or 8th November, a bit earlier and therefore more options for places, potentially less expensive. Possibly buffet, possibly canapés. Either way, preference is for a seated meal, even if it is not served. We also want to subsidize it a bit. Best price we can find is £40pp inc drinks. Thinking of having an entry price and a full price, and also give people the option of making a donation to help others. Thinking about what the sink cost is, and then figure out a subsidized cost (say, £20), and a non subsidized cost. VS felt we should all be on a level playing field and just have one price for everyone. MS suggested that all tickets are one price and then people are invited to put money behind the bar. JV felt that if prices are much above £20 then we simply lose a bunch of alumni. Will probably be at the Loosebox in Westminster. NT happy to go and check it out. Goal is 100 people. NT also suggested we add offers of housing for people who are coming in from out of town. MS also suggested a raffle as a way of underwriting the cost.
7. Summer Party – Putting together a working group. NC happy to do party; suggests tying in with 4th of July.
8. Mentoring Programme – Need more mentors. Get in touch with Lucinda.
9. British Bulldogs – internship programme for rising junior and seniors, do work experience here in London. Have had about a dozen, but would like to expand that number. Looking for finance, but also government, arts, etc. VS suggested NC liaises with the Jackson Institute. Most UK based employers will hire UK based students. Takes a personal relationship with HR department.
10. AYA Assembly – 2018 rep needed – If people are interested in representing the YCL, get in touch.
11. Awards – Idea to thank people for the work that they do.
12. AOB – IKT: has lots of ideas about arts and theatre events, and also about getting younger alums involved. Will get in touch with MG, NC and JF as appropriate.

**Reports on Initiatives**

**Alumni Schools Committee (ASC) from Victoria Stainsby**

As always we look forward to another busy year of undergraduate applications. Early Action Assignments will be coming online in the next few weeks. We are always looking for new volunteer interviewers to interview UK applicants. Please register ([www.asc.yale.edu](http://www.asc.yale.edu" \t "_blank))  if you are available to be an ambassador for Yale College.

**Art Circle from Kyoung Kim**

It's been a busy year (much busier than I expected!), largely facilitating suggestions from YCL members who've offered their expertise, time and enthusiasm. We've had five events in 2018, with possibly one more before the year is out: the Art and Displacement event (which also raised £360 for the Refugee Council youth division), an East London Galleries Walk led by Madeleine Haddon, a Media Art Trip led by Yinan Song, a Migration Museum event with Aditi Anand, and an 'Asian Art in London' Gallery Crawl led by Nixi Cura. Attendance has been good and continued engagement by YCL members in the Art Circle's possibilities seems pretty healthy. In the works: a proposed 'salon series' coordinated by Christian Küsters, Yinan Song and myself, as well as an outing to the Greenwich Auction House in Spring 2019. This first year of the revived Art Circle came with some major learning curves, efforts made to apply lessons in a meaningful way, as well as good, fun, educative times! Please contact us with any new ideas/angles for Art Circle doings (at YCLArtCircle@gmail.com). Thanks to everyone for their support in all things YCL Art Circle this year, as well as so much patience with the sea legs...

**AYA (Association of Yale Alumni) European Club Leadership Forum from May Gibson**

Kamilla Arku and I attended the weekend conference in Berlin in June, where we heard about ways other European clubs are trying to build their memberships. Nory Babbitt, Senior Director for Yale Clubs at the AYA reported on the results from their survey conducted at the beginning of the year.  She noted that in Europe Yale is beginning to have more alums from graduate schools than Yale college. The survey also showed that giving back and lifelong learning were two of the most important aspects of wanting to stay connected to the Yale community, and alums under 45 had stronger desire to get involved and stay involved. The conference focused on this question of how do we harness the younger alumns and get them involved?  We spent a fair amount of time looking at social media - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. - and how we can utilise these apps to reach out to that age bracket.  The Yale International Alliance (YIA) also gave a presentation on their activities, including their virtual lecture series.  They are asking each local club to produce a video highlighting that club's activities. The YCL is pulling together material for our video, which I am coordinating and am in the process of producing.

**Cambridge Events from Amy Khlor**

In the first of what we hope will be a growing series of events in Cambridge, on 13th September, 2018 Markus Gehring and Amy Klohr hosted Vera Duo: Yale musicians and faculty members Mark Bailey (Baroque Viola) and Kevin Sherwin (Guitar) gave a recital of several centuries of music for their unique combination of instruments, laced with narrative about the origins of each. The audience of 70+ proceeded from recital to drinks reception, and a group of us continued the conversation over dinner. Seven new alumni connections were made that night, and the Vera Duo will be coming back to Cambridge. The event launches what we hope might be the first of many events welcoming the combined alumni of Yale and Hughes Hall, and Hughes Hall would welcome a wider audience of alums to future events, musical or otherwise. As for Cambridge events more generally, the YCL also hope to organise pub nights, country walks, etc. Your ideas would be most welcome. Do please get int ouch to let us know what sort of events you might enjoy. Contact Amy Klohr  (ak892@cam.ac.uk), who is also happy to be a resource for those moving to the Cambridge area.

**Day of Service 2018 from Kamilla Arku**

For this year's Day of Service, the YCL continued to build on its relationship with the Children's Section of the Refugee Council by hosting a day out for their students. More than 40 alumni and guests and 20 participants from the Children's Section joined in for a visual storytelling-inspired day at the V&A Building at Victoria Park. Alumni joined guest artist Bokani Tshidzu and the students in creating masks and portraits, and we finished the day with a group project with sculptor Christopher Guest. In between, we enjoyed music and dance games, some getting-to-know you ice-breakers, a guest performance by guitarist Scippio Mosely and a delicious lunch. Volunteers helped accompany students from the Children's Section, prepared snacks and lunch, came up with impromptu games when we got rained in, donated their photography skills, and most importantly, spent time getting to know and participating in activities alongside the students!

It was great to continue the spirit of DOS at two events in the months following: the 'Art & Displacement' fundraiser kindly hosted by the Yale Art Circle, and 'Volunteering the Yale Way,' an inspiring panel discussion organised by Margaret Glover. Get in touch with ideas for next year's DOS (or ideas on how to celebrate DOS throughout the year!) at LondonDOS2018@gmail.com

**Country Walks from Victoria Stainsby**

We had a beautiful amble through the autumn Buckinghamshire countryside on Saturday with a leisurely pub lunch. There was a great turnout (12 people I think) Nothing planned now until the Spring. We are always happy for other Yalies to suggest and plan a walk in their ‘neck of the woods’, so get in touch!

**Mambership from Samar Abbas**

Earlier this year, the Club undertook a massive cull of old contacts including details of lapsed members. This brought down the total number of people on our database from a four-figure number to around 400. Not only has this initiative ensured compliance with GDPR, it has also brought down our ongoing data management costs. As of today, 15 October 2018, there are 448 members registered on the club's system. Of these, 368 are active members whereas memberships of a further 80 are currently awaiting renewal. As part of our GDPR compliance initiative (and to reduce data management costs), lapsed members who have not renewed their memberships by the end of the calendar year will be removed from the system and will have to reapply to join the club (should they wish). The breakdown of the 368 active members is as follows:

Junior members: 92

Senior members: 169

Admin/Alumni Club Leaders: 33

Current Graduate Students: 28

Current Yale College Students: 15

Other (e.g., Yale staff; retired; unemployed etc): 31

17 of the currently active 368 members have joined us in the last 30 days.

**Theatre Circle from May Gibson**

After some popular Theatre events in 2016, we made a more concerted effort this past year to organise more Theatre outings.  Over the past year, we organised 6 events to a wide range of theatrical productions. These included the West End musical THE GIRLS which was followed by a post-show conversation with Tim Firth and Gary Barlow; GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY at the Old Vic with the American Association of the Old Vic; Sam Shepherd's A LIE OF THE MIND; BELLEVILLE by Amy Herzog at the Donmar; ACCEPTANCE by Amy Ng at Hampstead Theatre; and NOTES FROM THE FIELD by Anna Devere Smith at the Royal Court.  All the events were well attended and produced lively conversations.  We are kicking off the 2018/19 season with PARENTS' EVENING directed by Yale and we'd love your support of this event, so please try to join us on the 25th of October.  Finally, I'd love to hear suggestions from the YCL membership for any upcoming theatrical productions that they think would be of interest to the YCL community, and better yet if it has a Yale connection.

**Volunteering the Yale Way from Margaret Glover**

Volunteering the Yale Way held it’s first event in July, inspired by the class of 1958 and their record of ‘giving back’ through service to the communities in which they’ve found themselves since graduating 60 years ago. The panel discussion was led by Thomas Swidler (YC ’58), Kamilla Arku (YC ’05), YCL DoS 2018, Anant Jani ( and Rachel Littman (YC ’91), Chair of Chapters for Yale Alumni Nonprofit Alliance (YANA). The action points discussed were to develop a regular, informal forum to discuss good practice and encourage sustainable volunteering. A full report is available from Margaret Glover - glo.mar.eli@gmail.com.

**YCL/YIA Video from May Gibson**

I have been gathering some footage and soundbites from recent YCL events since June.  So far I have comments from members on the Theatre Circle, the Bulldogs, Arts Circle, and the music event in Cambridge.  There are also some photos from the sports events.  It's been tricky recording at events as the sound quality is quite poor.  So what would be great is if all the event organisers could take some photos at their various upcoming events.  If they email me, I can give them the link to the shared drive to upload the material.  At the same time, would be happy to have members send their comments on why they value the YCL.

**Young Alumni from James Ford**

The past year has seen a healthy set of Young Alumni-focused events – 8 events, including six cross-college collaboration events, with more than 250 attendees across those events! A good proportion of events had a sporting slant this year, and the competitive spirit between colleges bringing out a good number of alumni from a range of classes.  Highlights include: (1) comprehensively beating Harvard in the Annual London Football (soccer!) match 6-3 on a sweltering summer’s afternoon in Battersea – thanks to Nikita Tsukanov ’15 for leading the team this year; (2) bringing out around 65 alumni from 8 colleges for a series of different sports in the inaugural US Alumni Field Day in Wimbledon; and (3) introducing around 30 alumni to polo at the Oxford-Cambridge Varsity Polo match in Windsor Great Park.  As ever, anyone who is keen to get involved with Young Alumni events in the coming year, please contact James Ford ’11.