Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
12 May 2020

NB. These minutes are to be ratified at the 2021 AGM Meeting

1. Apologies

Following the cancellation of the BAFTSS 2020 conference at the University of St Andrews due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the BAFTSS 2020 AGM was refigured to take place online.

Reports from each of the BAFTSS Executive Committee with specific roles (e.g. Treasurer, PGR Representatives, Social Media et c) and previous AGM Minutes were made available to members via a password-protected link on the BAFTSS website.

All BAFTSS members as of April 2020 were invited to vote on the four matters set out in section 9 by 12 May 2020.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 26 April 2019, University of Birmingham

These were formally received and ratified.

3. Chair’s Report (Andy Moor)


- We would like to record our huge thanks to Tom Rice and Shruti Narayanswamy at the University of St Andrews for the enormous energy and skill they brought to the planning of the BAFTSS 2020 Conference.
- Our 2021 Conference is planned to be at the University of Southampton, 15th – 17th April, and we are grateful to colleagues there, particularly Louis Bayman who is coordinating everything for us. In view of current uncertainty about public gatherings, we are putting contingency plans in place, should an online conference look more viable.
- At Tom and Shruti’s suggestion, we are looking to take the BAFTSS Conference to St Andrews in 2022.

B. Changes to the BAFTSS Executive Committee.

- Elections: 5 positions are due for election this month. They are: Chair, Secretary, and 3 x member positions. A public call was issued on April 1st, encouraging anyone wishing to serve on the Committee to submit a formal
notification to the Association Secretary. The following notifications were received:

- **Chair:** James Leggott. As James is the only candidate for the role of Chair, he automatically picks up this role at the conclusion of the 2020 AGM activity. James will serve as the Association’s Chair for 12 months. At this point, James will be stepping down from the EC as he will have served the maximum of 6 consecutive years since our 2015 Constitution was accepted.

- **Secretary:** Liz Watkins. Liz is the only candidate for this role, and she therefore is elected as Secretary for 3 years (2020 – 2023)

- **Member roles:** we received 4 notifications for the 3 elected positions and an online election will therefore take place (details of this form part of our online AGM paperwork). The candidates are: Johnny Walker, Gabor Gergely, Louis Bayman, Bella Honess Roe

We would like to offer sincere thanks to the people named here for submitting their notifications to us. Please note that in 2021, a number of other roles on the BAFTSS EC will be due for election. These will be announced in the Spring, pending Elections at the 2021 AGM.

- **Thanks to colleagues leaving the BAFTSS EC this month:** Rajinder Dudrah is not standing for re-election and steps aside from the EC this month. Rajinder has worked for BAFTSS since its inception a decade ago. Agnieszka Piotrowska is not standing for re-election so she too steps aside after five years. Thanks to Ana Maria Sapountzi, who is stepping down as PGR Rep, for all of her work with BAFTSS and the EC. On behalf of the EC and the Association’s members, I would like to thank them for their services to BAFTSS.

- **Co-opted Vice Chair:** James Leggott’s election (unopposed) to the position of Chair means he will vacate his role as Vice-Chair once the 2020 AGM processes are finalised. The Executive Committee (in accordance with the Constitution) will then co-opt its current member Charlotte Crofts to the role of VC for 12 months until the 2021 AGM. When she moves to this position she will vacate her current Member position: the EC will quickly determine who to co-opt to the empty member position for 12 months, once the Member elections have taken place.

### C. Changes to Membership Rates

- The Executive Committee has now decided to propose a rise in annual membership rates. This is because the Association is giving more financial assistance to events (through our popular Special Interest Groups, the ‘New Connections’ Visiting Speaker series for early career colleagues, postgraduate conference bursaries, etc). Our membership fees have remained static for a long time. By increasing them we will be able to ensure the financial resilience of the Association.

- The proposed increase is as follows: Salaried members: increasing from £20 to £30 p.a.; students, unsalaried, unwaged members: increasing from £10 to £15 p.a.
• All proposals to amend membership rates require the approval of the members. We are therefore now seeking approval for this proposed rise via an online voting process (details of this process form part of our AGM material.

D. Early Career Mentoring Scheme

• BAFTSS launched this scheme at the beginning of 2019. It ‘buddies’ early career members who have completed their PhD examination with an established mentor. 17 Early Career colleagues applied to the scheme and have been paired with mentors. We are currently surveying all Scheme participants, and the Executive Committee will consider the feedback at its next meeting. We hope the Scheme signals the Association’s wish to support members in precarious professional positions and that the feedback will help the EC determine how best to offer support in the future.
• We would like to thank our early career colleagues and our mentors for participating and for responding to our request for feedback.

E. “New Connections” Scheme.

• This scheme emerged from a discussion with Gabor Gergely at our 2019 Conference and we are grateful to him for the prompt. Launched on a pilot basis in Summer 2019, the Scheme funds travel expenses to enable early career and independent scholars to present a full research paper at a University where they have no prior professional connection. A successful series of events has taken place, and the BAFTSS EC will consider this summer how best to move forward with the Scheme for the coming year.
• We are mindful that the current lockdown has required many of us to shift towards digital online meetings, and one option the EC intends to consider is whether the ‘New Connections’ scheme might evolve into an online series of research-related activities, which might form part of a permanent resource on the BAFTSS website.

F. Current Chair’s Departure.

• A personal Note: I have been actively involved with BAFTSS since its inception, when its initial working party hoped that members would join and that a first conference would be viable. They did and it was. I have learned an enormous amount from the previous Chairs (Brian Winston and Phil Powrie) and from everybody else who has given so much of their time to the Association’s Executive Committee. I will remain connected to BAFTSS as a member, and as Editor of its journal, Open Screens.

4. Treasurer’s Report (Kate Ince)

The accounts are in good health and all current schemes are funded.

5. Membership Report (Alex Marlow-Mann)
As of 24th April 2020 BAFTSS membership was as follows:

- 336 members (of which 129 student/unwaged and 207 waged)
- Jiscmail discussion list subscribers: 1503
- Facebook: 40,000 views or engagement
- Twitter followers: 2835

6. SIG Report (Liz Watkins)

As of 24th April 2020 there are 18 BAFTSS Special Interest Groups (SIGs) 2019-2020 has seen three new SIGs on Performance and Stardom Studies, East Asian Screen Cultures, and LGBTQ + Cinema.

BAFTSS conference 2020. 9 SIGs submitted panel proposals for the BAFTSS 2020 conference. The conference was unfortunately cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but our thanks to all those involved in convening and submitting these panel proposals – we look forward to welcoming you at future BAFTSS Conferences.

SIG Funding Scheme. Applications for funding: (Jan-Dec 2019) 9 applications (Jan-April 2020): 2 applications. 9 out of the 11 applications were successful.

There are several BAFTSS SIG events that have been postponed/moving online due to broader restrictions in place to mitigate the impact of COVID-19: Screening Sex SIG. ‘Screening Sex symposium’. Practice Research SIG. ‘Filmmaking in the Academy.’ Bristol. Further information will be circulated by the conveners.

Reports from events organised by BAFTSS SIGs can be found on the SIG homepages. A summary of the work undertaken by SIGs can be found in the BAFTSS SIG Newsletter October 2019.

Joining: To join a SIG you must be a member of BAFTSS – there is an option to join a SIG through the BAFTSS membership process. Alternatively, BAFTSS Members can contact SIG conveners directly.

The SIG Funding Scheme remains open for events which take place prior to 31st December 2020. The Funding Application form can be found on the BAFTSS website.

Thanks to all of the SIG conveners and members for their work.

7. Graduate Network Report (Ana Maria Sapountzi/Daisy Richards/ Marta Suarez)

1. We would firstly like to announce that Ana Maria Sapountzi has decided to step down from her role as a PGR Representative. In our most recent Executive meeting, it was decided that the representation will remain as is moving forward, with two representatives. We would like to invite the
Executive Committee to say goodbye to Ana Maria, and to join us in thanking her for all of her hard work during her time as a PGR Representative, and to wish her all the best in her future pursuits!

2. The workshop that we ran as part of our PGR/ECR/Independent Scholars provision for BAFTSS 2019 was very successful. A recorded copy of this workshop can now be found in both the Facebook group and on the BAFTSS website for anyone wanting to access it who was unable to come to the Conference or would just like to view it again.

3. A new PGR Representative was recruited in 2019 – Daisy Richards joined us as a 1st year PhD student researching sexual violence in the media at De Montfort University’s Cinema and Television History Institute in Leicester. She can be contacted via email using: daisy.richards@dmu.ac.uk.

4. We were drawing up plans for a workshop to run again at this year’s BAFTSS 2020 Conference at the University of St Andrews. The workshop was to be centred on “nailing the academic interview” but due to the current public health situation, has of course, been cancelled. We are, however, looking into the options we might have in order to host the workshop in a digital fashion alternatively.

5. Due to the cancellation of BAFTSS 2020, the annual PGR travel and expenditure bursaries were not allocated.

6. Despite the cancellation of BAFTSS 2020, the PGR Poster Competition was able to be run digitally, and was a great success. There were more submissions this year than in any previous year, and we would like to wholeheartedly thank Liz Watkins who oversaw the organisation of the competition, and whose efforts meant that it could still run online. Congratulations to Liam Creighton (University of Kent) who was crowned this year’s winner!

7. Finally, we would like to encourage any and all PGRs in the areas of Film, TV and screen medias to join the BAFTSS PGR group in Facebook, or to invite others if they are already involved. Our Twitter handle is @batsspg. Although BAFTSS membership is not a requirement for involvement in the social media pages. However, we encourage PGRs to join as the membership fees are low and do offer full access to Conference bursary schemes and the annual PGR Research Poster Showcase, amongst other things. To join, please visit the BAFTSS website directly: https://www.baftss.org/join.

8. **Open Screens Report** (Andrew Moor)

   - **Background:** Open Screens (https://openscreensjournal.com) is part of the Open Library of the Humanities and it began to solicit submissions in Summer 2018 and it remains an open access, no charge, platinum route journal. It accepts research papers of up to 8000 words, commentaries of up to 3000 words, and audio-visual practice work.
• **Current Position:** During an initial ‘bedding in’ period, the journals editors have been delighted to receive a good range of submissions. Accepted submissions are published on a rolling basis as they are ready, though the scope for Special Issues / Dossiers has always been there.

• **Future Planning:** The editorial team and our publishers Ubiquity Press have recently reviewed the journal’s activities and future planning is focused on maximising the number and quality of submissions and widening the journal's readership. In particular:
  - The journal aims to capitalise on the fact that it is the house journal of a dynamic and active academic association. It aims to ensure it is profiled at BAFTSS Conferences and at events the Association is funding.
  - As well as inviting submissions from members and from the wider BAFTSS email list, it will be discussing possibilities for Special Issues with BAFTSS SIG convenors, panel coordinators at conference and the wider academic community.

9. **Online Vote.**

The following four points were decided by the BAFTSS Membership (April 2020) via an online vote. Each BAFTSS Member was invited to vote once on each of the following four points:

**Vote a:** Minutes of the AGM held on 26th April 2019, University of Birmingham. **AGREED.**

**Vote b:** Membership fees to increase from £10 to £15 (for student, unwaged, unsalaried members) and from £20 to £30 (for staff, salaried members).

BAFTSS Constitution. 5.1 requires that the Executive Committee shall make proposals as to the rate of the annual membership fees, which will subsequently be determined at the AGM. **AGREED.**

**Vote c:** Elections to Executive Committee. Roles on the BAFTSS Executive Committee were advertised on the BAFTSS Jiscmail list in April 2020. The outcome was as follows:

- Chair James Leggott
- Secretary Liz Watkins
- OM5
- OM6
- OM7

The Executive Committee received 4 nominations for the three available places as Ordinary Member of the EC. The BAFTSS Membership was invited to vote to select 3 new Ordinary Members for the Executive Committee. **AGREED** Johnny Walker, Bella Honess Roe and Louis Bayman were elected into the three places. As a result of Charlotte Crofts (OM3 2018-21) taking the Vice Chair role vacated by James Leggott, Gábor Gergely takes the OM3 role until 2021.
Vote d: Vote to agree/disagree with the proposed change to the BAFTSS constitution: One of the three Postgraduate Representatives has recently stepped down. The EC Meeting in April 2020, with the agreement of the PGR Reps who were in attendance, discussed converting this role to that of Ordinary Member dedicated to the interests of Independent Researchers/ Filmmakers/ Fixed Term Contracts/ Visiting Researchers/ Visiting Lecturers/ Affiliated Staff. This change to the constitution would introduce a new Ordinary Member role to the Executive Committee. This role can be occupied by any member of BAFTSS (post-doctoral, early or mid-career) who is an active researcher/lecturer in the situation outlined. This role is in recognition of the impact of fixed term contracts and casualisation on academia and to further representation of these issues as a matter for all of the BAFTSS membership. AGREED.

Members were invited to leave comments for the attention of the Chair. Five comments were made. Three paid thanks to the EC and outgoing Chair for their work. One pointed out a factual error made in reference to the planned 2020 conference (now corrected in the minutes), and one was a suggestion that the membership fee raise should just applied to salaried members.

Here is a link to the full results of the voting: https://29fa98f6-1809-488b-a9ec-9a5b9d0f4b6e.filesusr.com/ugd/27b2ad_f86c550f9bc542528a0bd8dd21e469e0.pdf

10. Conference 2021 update (Andy Moor)

BAFTSS 9th Annual Conference will be held at the University of Southampton, 15th-17th April 2021.

11. AOB

Members were invited to contact the BAFTSS Chair with any questions or comments about BAFTSS, or the issues raised in the AGM documents.

12. Time and Date of next meeting: University of Southampton April 2021