

THE CAMBRIDGE STATISTICS DISCUSSION GROUP
(WITH THE CAMBRIDGE HUMANIST SOCIETY)

Thursday 25th November 1999 7:45 for 8:00

Bevin Room,
Churchill College,
Storey's Way, Cambridge

Investigating the Paranormal

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Abstract: Many people claim to be psychic. Join Dr Richard Wiseman as he reports on some of the very latest developments in this controversial field of research including investigations of psychic detectives, religious leaders claiming miraculous powers, psychic surgeons, the Indian Rope Trick and even a psychic dog. Dr Wiseman will also be revealing some of the secrets behind the tricks used to fake psychic ability and will be talking about his recent mass participation experiments designed to promote the public understanding of science.

Speaker: Dr Richard Wiseman obtained a First in psychology from University College London and a doctorate in psychology from Edinburgh University. He currently heads the Perrott Warrick Research Unit, based at the University of Hertfordshire and funded by Cambridge University. This Unit examines unusual areas within psychology including: the psychology of the paranormal, the psychology of deception and lying and the psychology of luck and intuition. He has written over 60 papers in academic journals and newspapers and published 5 books. Dr Wiseman regularly appears on the media and has contributed to over 200 television and radio items.

Directions: Directions for the Bevin Room can be obtained from the porter's lodge located at the front of the building on the left. Parking is available at the rear of the college.

Next Meetings:

3rd February – David Brown (Babraham Institute) on 'How Does the Brain Compute?'

April – Jim Slattery (Medicines Control Agency).

4th May – Jennifer Potts (Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit).

Subscriptions: of 4 pounds per member are now due for the 1999-2000 session. Cheques should be made payable to Robert Milroy and may be posted to the secretary at the address below.

Supper: Some members eat regularly in the University Centre before each meeting at 6-15. Feel free to join them.

Secretary: Peter Watson, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, 15 Chaucer Road, Cambridge CB2 2EF;
telephone 01223 355294 Extension 380; E-mail peter.watson@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

TURN OVER for the Annual General Meeting minutes

Approved Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1997-98

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1997-98 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge, on 6th October 1998. **Present:** Peter Watson (in chair), Tim Cole, Margaret Corbett, Mary Garratt, Sheila Gore, Tony Johnson, Rob Milroy, Gesine Reinert, Helen Tate, Gordon Taylor, Jacquelyn Taylor, Peter Treasure. **Apologies:** Dave Andrews, Peter Rothery, Eryl Shirley, Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. On the basis of expected extra costs in the 1998-9 session it was decided to raise the subscription to £4 for 1998-99. Heartfelt thanks were expressed to Margaret for another year of efficiency and effort. Margaret stated she wished to retire as Treasurer at the end of the 1998-9 session and would welcome any volunteers to succeed her.

The **Secretary** presented a brief analysis of the previous session's attendance. Total attendance (96) was down on last year (131) but comparable to 1995-96 (104). Peter Watson appealed to anyone interested in hosting a group meeting to kindly contact him since there was a shortage of centrally located venues.

Election of officers and committee: Eryl Shirley was proposed as chair by Peter Treasure and elected unopposed. All other committee members exercised their right to stand again and were re-elected unopposed. Peter Rothery was thanked for his conscientious contribution as chair. The committee for 1998-99: *chair* Eryl Shirley; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Margaret Corbett; *ex-officio* Peter Rothery; *ordinary* Tim Sparks, Diane Stockton, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: The group sent best wishes to Dave Andrews who had been ill recently. It was agreed to reduce the number of meetings this session to seven and to six thereafter.

Treasurer's Accounts and Report 1998-99

Expenditure	1998-9	1997-8	Income	1998-9	1997-8
Secretarial expenses	£83.74	£81.28	Initial cash balance	£115.59	£115.77
Speakers' meals	£16.95	£00.65	Subscriptions (No. of people)	£132.00 (33)	£96.00 (32)
Refreshments	£26.01				
Secretary -in hand	£17.30	£20.23			
Balance c/f	£107.09	£115.59	Interest	£3.50	£5.98
Totals	£251.09	£217.75		£251.09	£217.75

Treasurer's Report: The subscription was raised to £4 annually this year. The extra money so raised balanced the increase in expenditure quite neatly. We decided in 1997 that a rise in subscription to £5 was approved if needed. I don't feel that it is necessary yet unless the Committee foresee several further unavoidable refreshment expenses.

I have greatly enjoyed being your Treasurer and now wish to stand down on the grounds of time passing – I have been retired for some years. I hope to continue coming to meetings as often as possible.

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 1998-99

The Annual General Meeting for the year 1998-99 was held at the Computer Laboratory, New Museums Site, Cambridge on 4th October 1999. **Present:** Eryl Shirley (in chair), Dave Andrews, Tim Cole, Monique Cruickshank, Mary Garratt, Graham Healey, Julie McGiven, Rob Milroy, Pamela Morris, Chris Palmer, Jim Slattery, Peter Treasure, Peter Watson, John Wood. **Apologies:** Margaret Corbett, Anthony Edwards, Tim Sparks. The **minutes** of the previous A.G.M. were circulated and approved.

Reports: The **Treasurer's** Accounts were circulated. It was decided to keep the subscription at 4 pounds for the coming session. Margaret was warmly thanked for her long and loyal service to the committee over a decade! The **Secretary** reported number attending (60) was up on last session (48) despite having one less meeting!

Election of officers and committee: Rob Milroy was proposed as treasurer by Peter Treasure. June Anderson was proposed by Monique Cruickshank as an ordinary member to replace Diane Stockton who had moved from the area. Both were elected unopposed. Peter Watson thanked Diane for her refreshing presence. The committee for 1999-2000: *chair* Eryl Shirley; *secretary* Peter Watson; *treasurer* Rob Milroy; *ex-officio* Peter Rothery; *ordinary* June Anderson, Tim Sparks, Helen Tate.

Any Other Business: Churchill College was endorsed as the venue for the November meeting.

