The meeting started at 1830. The Chairman welcomed everybody and noted that the meeting was quorate.

The following members were present:

Mary Jane Brouwers (Secretary)
Jim Laidlaw (Chairman)
Alasdair Fairbairn
Claudia Duffy
Joan Fraser
Philip Riddle
Jamie Knibbs
Barry Sealey
Neal Wade
Geoffrey Woodroffe
Rosemary Woodroffe
John Naylor
Tim Denvir
Matthias Fahrenwaldt
Sarah McQuay
Masami Fujimoto (arrived late)
Keith Rutter (Treasurer)
Ian Roberts (arrived late)

2. Apologies were received from: Rob Dick, Amanda and Lyn Jones, Iain Gordon Brown, James Stevenson-Hamilton, Derek Prime, Chris Judson, Roger Ward, Jim Lyon and David Semmens.

3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2016 were approved without amendment. (Proposed by John Naylor and seconded by Claudia Duffy). There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman’s Report: Jim reviewed what has been an interesting and successful year for the society. He highlighted four events: the visit to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, courtesy of their archivist, Iain Gordon Brown, the Annual Dinner at which (arranged by Claudia Duffy), Prof Ian Underwood gave a very interesting talk about innovation and technology, underlining the quality of research coming out of the University of Edinburgh, the Freshers’ reception in September, organized by Ian Roberts, which was particularly well attended this year, including a number of second years, and the dinner in October with Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master of Emmanuel, who talked about the challenges facing both the university and the colleges. Jim also noted that formation of the Cambentrepreneurs alumni group, which has already organized several events in Edinburgh, and the Global Cambridge event, organized by CUDAR in March, at which committee members volunteered. Jim thanked all committee members for their support throughout the year, and singled out Keith Rutter and Mary Jane Brouwers for particular thanks.
5. Treasurer’s Report: Keith talked through the Society’s finances, pointing out that while there may be the need for some further small adjustments, that the bank balance had been maintained at a similar level to last year of £1.3k. He restated his aim to build a larger cash cushion to ensure that the Society is in a stronger financial position in the future and able to cover the cost of speakers’ travel and accommodation if required. Keith expressed great appreciation of all the donors who supported the Freshers’ reception, enabling us to cover the costs of the circa twenty-five student attendees. There was some discussion of the relative merits of the rather different programme of events run by the Oxford University Society, and their apparent ability to generate a healthy financial surplus. It was agreed that the overall financial position was acceptable. The accounts were duly approved. (Proposed by Neal Wade and seconded by Barry Sealey).

6. New guidelines and possible constitutional change: Mary Jane summarized the current situation in relation to CUDAR and the implications of the recently circulated Memorandum of Understanding and Licence Agreement. It was acknowledged that it was not a matter that could be dealt with in the time available and it was agreed that a subcommittee should be established to review the issues and make a recommendation to members in due course. (John Naylor and Mary Jane volunteered to join the sub-committee).

7. It was noted that all committee members, apart from Claudia Duffy and Neal Wade, have completed a two-year term. Mary Jane confirmed that she was not standing for re-election. The nominations were as follows:
   Jim Laidlaw, nominated by Mary Jane and seconded by Keith
   Geoffrey Woodroffe, nominated by Rosemary Woodroffe and seconded by Barry Sealey
   Keith Rutter, nominated by John Naylor and seconded by Jim
   Ian Roberts, nominated by Barry and seconded by John
   David Semmens, nominated by Claudia and seconded by Neal
   Matthias Fahrenwaldt, nominated by Jim and seconded by John

Geoffrey nominated Jim as Chairman and this was approved unanimously.

8. AOCB
It was noted that Connor MacDonald, a third year undergraduate, will be visiting Edinburgh in December, having received a travel grant from CUDAR to research alumni relations. He would like to meet as many members as possible.
John Naylor proposed a vote of thanks to Jim for his leadership over the last year.

The meeting closed at 1900 for a wine reception followed by a short presentation from Jim on the life of Colonel George Miller of Urquhart, C.B., F.R.S..