

2010 Annual General Meeting
of the
British Deaf Association
held at
Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth

on Saturday 10th April 2010 from 10am-1pm.

Members present

Jennifer Ackerman	Joanna Gardiner	Tony Pilkington
Lorna Allsop	David Gomersall	Austin Reeves
Bruce Armour	Lydia Handscomb	Christine Reeves
Susan Armour	R Harris	Terry Riley
Robin Ash	Barry Avison	Helen Robins-Talbot
Maureen Ash	Andrew Hawkins	Hilary Rundell
Ann Atkins	Mark Hester	Neil Schriek
Derek Baker	Andrea Hill	Allan Sharp
Stefy Bell	Andrew Holmes	Sylvia Simmonds
Ken Brewster	Mary Humphries	Keith Simmons
Kevin Buckle	Nicholas Humphries	Colin Smart
David Bullock	David Jackson	Alison Spear
Bronwynne Buxton	Peter Jackson	Sandra Stevens
David Buxton	William Johnson	Nick Sturley
Bruce Cameron	Liz Jones	Andrea Taffurelli
Richard Carter	Peter Jones	Clive Thomas
Jane Cheetham	Betty Key	Katherine Thomas
A Cranwell	Leslie Key	Keith Washington
Mark Cunliffe	Lesley Kiddell-Spencer	Mike Webster
Linda Day	Matthew Kirby	Charlotte Weekes
Catherine Drew	Sonia Lovelass	Richard Williams
Bob Duncan	Christopher Marsh	Margaret Willis
Agnes Dyab	Phillipa Merricks	M Wood
Debbie Elliot	Edward Mulvey	Doreen Woodford
Phillipa English	Tessa Padden	Jui Hui Yang
Eva Fielding-Jackson	Stuart Parkinson	Jacqueline Yong
Colin Freeman	Pat Philips	
Judith Funnell	David Pilkington	

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Members were welcomed to the 2010 AGM by Terry Riley, the Chair of the British Deaf Association.

2. Opening Announcements

The Chair confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from

Robert Adam	Mary Dean	Francis Murphy
Eric Baldwin	Andrew Ford	Alan Murray
Margaret Baldwin	Margaret Ford	Jacqueline Samper-Mort
Alan Bennett	D Harris	Alice Scarff
Penny Besschizza	R Harris	Jean Williams
Paul Carr	Peter Kendall	Len Williams
Margaret Cassidy	Rhoda Mair	Paul Winterhalter
Joe Collins	Helen McCracken	Frank Wood

4. Minutes of the AGM held in Gateshead on 1st February 2009

The Minutes of the AGM held in Gateshead were distributed at the meeting and they were confirmed as a true record, proposed by Mark Hester, seconded by Austin Reeves.

5. Chair's Review of the Year

The Chair gave a brief review of the BDA's activities over the last year. A priority for the Board has been to work with the ADAs. Board members attended meetings in Wales, the North East and South West and will be attending the Scotland AGM shortly. A priority for the coming year will be to promote ADA activity in all regions of the UK. Concern was expressed at the number of Deaf Clubs closing, the premises being sold and the Deaf Community losing control of their resource.

The Board are carrying out a Structural Review of the organisation and will shortly be able to share the findings with members. Funds received from Legacies will be used to develop new activities.

The BDA has worked successfully in a number of partnerships, including with Deaf Action in Malawi and with a number of partners on the I-Sign initiative. The Advocacy and Youth services are developing well in Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland and there are plans to develop in England.

The Chair informed the members that the Chief Executive, Simon Wilkinson-Blake, and the Director of Operations, Richard Jones, had both recently moved on to new jobs and introduced Jonathan Isaac, the Interim Managing Director, who will be in post until a new permanent Chief Executive is appointed.

Comments from members at the meeting emphasized the importance of the BDA campaigning for bilingual education.

The Chair concluded by thanking the members of the Board, the staff, volunteers and members for their support and commitment to the BDA over the last year.

6. Treasurer's Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts 2008/9

Barry Avison, Treasurer of the BDA, presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2009. Income for the year increased by £250,000 to £1.9m, and expenditure decreased by £225,000 to £1.1m giving a net surplus of £0.8m. Much of the surplus resulted from the new way of accounting for legacy income. With advice from the Charity Commission we have also been able to reallocate funds from

Restricted to Unrestricted Funds. Total funds held at the end of the year were nearly £2m up from £1.2m, of which about £0.8m is restricted. After setting aside the amount needed for our Reserves Policy, about £350,000, the Board are developing plans to spend some of the unrestricted funds on new activities. This is a much better position than the organisation was in three years ago. The Treasurer thanked everyone for their contribution to getting the organisation back into a healthier financial position, with particular thanks to Derek Wine, the Director of Finance.

Questions from the floor included a query about the funds held by ADAs, which will be investigated, and about the liability of the Pension Fund (see attached addendum).

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/9 were accepted unanimously.

7. Appointment of Auditors. Recommendation that Lacey Wilson be appointed to audit the accounts. The remuneration to be agreed by the Board.

The recommendation that Lacey Wilson be appointed to audit the accounts for 2009/10 was approved unanimously.

8. Resolutions.

- a) To re-activate funding for the Durham University British Sign Language Teacher Training Centre (DUBSLTTC) using the VISTA Curriculum. Proposed by David Pilkington, seconded by J E Smith

First amendment: Apply funding to support openly bids from University (within Deaf Studies) using appropriate curriculum for teaching sign language. Proposed by Lorna Allsop, seconded by Sandra Smith

Second amendment: The British Deaf Association to develop a business plan to work with Training Providers to further the work of the BDA BSL Teaching, Curriculum and Assessment training opportunities. Proposed by the Board

After some discussion it was agreed that the resolution was not valid as the seconder of the original resolution was not present.

- b) Wales ADA proposed its name of the organisation from South Wales Area Council to Deaf Association Wales (DAW). Proposed by Mark Hester, seconded by A Tafferelli

Amendment: This resolution be postponed subject to the outcome of the Structural Report and consultation with all ADAs. Proposed by the Board

Many members contributed to a lengthy discussion about the need to develop a strong corporate image for the whole organisation whilst respecting and promoting local identities.

The Resolution, as amended by the Board, was approved unanimously.

The Chair announced that three people have been nominated to receive Certificates of Merit for their hard work for the BDA. The three are Hazel Rutherford, Valerie Baker and Andrea Simpson. As they were not at the AGM their Certificates will be presented to them later.

9. Date and Venue of the next AGM

It was agreed that the next AGM should be held in an area that needed encouragement in developing ADA activities. The date and venue will be announced shortly.

10. Any Other Business

- a. The meeting was informed of plans to engage with the forthcoming General Election and the importance of raising awareness of the issues affecting the Deaf Community.
- b. The importance of communication for all, including those with Ushers, was noted.
- c. It was confirmed that a new logo had not yet been decided.

11. Vote of Thanks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and all those that had been involved in organising the Congress and AGM.

Addendum: Pension Fund Liability

This liability becomes payable either if the BDA is wound up or if no BDA member of staff is an active member of the scheme.

The BDA currently have four employees that are active in the scheme.

The Pensions Trust allows a period of grace of 12 months after the last active member leaves the scheme so long as we notify them that we intend to have at least one employee who will be an active member of the scheme within the next 12 months.

The value of our liability over the last four years has been:

2008/9	£1,504,146	Valuation date 30/09/08
2007/8	£ 208,527	Valuation date 30/09/07
2006/7	£1,280,142	Valuation date 30/09/06
2005/6	£1,560,688	Valuation date 30/09/05

The next valuation, for the 2009/10 Accounts is due for publication in May 2010 and will have a value date of 30/09/09.

The Government plans to bring in compulsory membership of a pension scheme for all employees from April 2012. This requirement should help us to maintain active employees in the scheme.