

**British Deaf Association Annual General Meeting  
2:15pm, Saturday 14 April 2018  
Manchester Conference Centre**

**1. Welcome**

The Chair formally welcomed all to the AGM and confirmed that with 58 members present, quorum has been met. He confirmed that permission has been given to be filmed and that the agenda can be found in the 2016/17 Annual Review.

**2. Opening Announcements**

A silent moment was held in honour of BDA members who passed away in the past year, including Arnold Rundle, Robert 'Bob' Battersby, Alexander 'Sandy' Brooks, Elaine Cohen (nee Prag), Frederick Cuddeford, Josephine Young, Evelyn 'Martha' Kelsall, June Lee-Yong, Sheila Webster (formerly Watson, nee Keil), Gononwy Williams, Terence 'Terry' Harton, Joyce Ball, Norman Blackburn, Jack Kirk, William Cooper, G Pickens, Hilda Palmer, Madeleine Woolf, P Simpson, Cliff Boucher, Trevor Philipson, T Orna, Mary Luke, Frank Hall, Janet Craig, John Peach, R Walters, Gracie Culbert, M Baldwin, Issy Schlisselman, Margaret Murray and Christopher Marsh.

The Chair apologised if any names were missed.

**3. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from: Robby Chilton, Ian Depledge, Simon and Christine Fisher, Bruce and Susan Armour., Jeff Brattan-Wilson, Linda Day, Jo Gardiner, Robert Adam, Irfan Yousef, John Denerley, Julian Peddle-Calloo, Clark Denmark, Carolyn Denmark, Jeff McWhinney, Paddy Ladd.

**4. Minutes of the last AGM, held on 28 January 2018 in York**

The minutes were made available to all members via the BDA website, and members could also request a hard copy to be posted. The Chair welcomed comments from those present.

**The minutes of the AGM held on 28 January 2017 in York were unanimously approved by the members. Proposer: Gloria Pullen, Seconder: Paul Winterhalter.**

**5. Chair's Review of the Year**

The Chair presented a review of the year via PowerPoint, including: 'Back to our Future': BDA 125 Year Congress in Torquay plus 125 Year celebrations all around the country (an opportunity for BDA to engage with community), Increasing the visibility of sign (working beyond sign language recognition, with social and political focuses), Meeting Politicians,

Husting Events (seeing deaf people becoming more assertive with politicians and expressing opinions), PIP – Department for Communities & Capital, BSL/ISL Consultation (this has been delayed by Stormont situation).

BSL Charter (re measuring success – can't expect overnight success, especially as Local Authorities are under economic pressure and experiencing cuts and there is no legal requirement for this, however on other services there have been successes), Heritage (highlighting success of *Power In Our Hands* – global exposure and empowerment, breaking down barriers. Won DRFF 2017 Best Documentary Award), Research and Policy (vital need for evidence – nothing since Conrad Report and changing times means we need to change with them).

Ongoing relationship with Kate Green Labour MP for Trafford who signed in Parliament. Attending Geneva UNCRPD discussions to discuss deaf-related articles. BSL used in House of Lords chambers for the first time), BDA Youth (benefit of camps for children and juniors – investing in our future), Membership and Events (including stalls at various events) and Deaf International Development (including visits to Singapore, Geneva, EUD Holland (GA) EUD Malta (GA) and New Zealand. BDA remains an active and vibrant member of both the WFD and EUD).

The Chair ended the review by confirming that this is a brief overview of the work of the Board of Trustees (work of staff is separate) and welcomed questions from members. One member asked about the Chair's involvement once he retires after this AGM – the Chair confirmed that he will still be around to support BDA, plus will still be filling his role as WFD Board Member.

## **6. Treasurer's Report (for year ended 31 March 2017)**

The Treasurer Michael Kyriakides presented the audited accounts ending 31 March 2017. He reminded the members that this is for the Year end financial accounts 2016-17 and presented a PowerPoint with graphs comparing 2015-16 to 2016-17. During 2016-17 income dropped by 13% to £1,688,000 and expenditure dropped by 25% to £1,880,000. The Treasurer also provided a pie chart breakdown of where income has come from and expenditure is being spent.

He highlighted that a lot of charities are struggling in the current competitive environment to get funding, plus experiencing cuts. The Treasurer and the BOT are keen to avoid reliance on legacies in the budget, and to aim to break even with legacies as a "bonus" as they are unpredictable. Income is down, but expenditure is also down to reflect this, and the Treasurer reminded the members that funds received for projects must be spent. Aim is to increase fundraising efforts to increase the BDA general reserves.

A summarised income and expenditure table was provided and the Treasurer explained the pension debt must now be declared in the accounts, and this must be retrospectively applied (which is why the 2015-16 accounts have been modified). The amount owed

constantly changes as it is tied to investments. Many charities are in the exact same situation and all will be waiting to see how declaring the pension debt impacts on future fundraising attempts.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and this included:

How long will the pension debt take to pay off? BDA policy re spending legacies – Board discusses this at length to ensure balance between provision of services to the community and paying off pension debt. Interest on this debt is minimal. What is the future plan for fundraising? The focus is now on fundraising, with a fundraising consultant and administrator part of the team, and with each fundraising proposal that is declined, they are learning. Funding is restricted to a certain criteria and would like to see new Board focusing fundraising strategy on keeping the heart of BDA at its centre instead of ad hoc project possibilities whenever potential funding is available. Consider paid membership again, plus members making donations to assist with BDA finances? Voluntary donations are always welcome, and Gift Aid is an option too. Paid membership is something for the new Board to discuss.

**Resolution One: Members were asked to accept the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ending 31 March 2017.**

**Unanimously accepted.**

## **7. Pension Trust Update**

The Treasurer provided a Pension Trust update, with a graphic that clearly demonstrates the current situation: £472,790 has been paid already, £550,000 is in the Pension Fund (which amounts to 3-3.5 years worth of upcoming payments) and there is still £703,870 to be sourced for future payments. A total of 12.5 years of payments is currently required – for a total of £1,726,660 – however this is not a fixed sum as it is subject to change dependent on shares and investments. BDA do not currently have the option to pay this off in one lump sum as the Pensions Trust would ask for a larger figure to pay it off earlier and thus the Treasurer believes the current approach of monthly payments is the best way forward.

There were no questions from the members and the Chair thanked the Treasurer.

## **8. Motion to amend Memorandum and Articles of Association**

The Company Secretary provided background information on this motion. Due to new rules, the BDA's current Memorandum and Articles of Association means that any changes must first be approved by the Charity Commission before being put to the members. This is restrictive, and thus the motion to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association. The BDA solicitor has recommended that the members accept these changes, and it requires a majority vote of at least 2/3 of members to approve this.

Members were invited to ask questions before the vote and this included:

Is BDA still a membership organisation? Confusion re who can propose motions and concerns that members can no longer propose motions – this was a change made at Bradford AGM, which means it is only the Board that can currently put forward motions.

Once the Memorandum and Articles of Association have been amended, it is proposed that the new Board establish a working group to review the constitution as a whole, allowing for member input and reviewing who can propose a motion, for approval at an EGM or AGM. Clarification re “Memorandum and Articles of Association” – this is essentially the BDA constitution, the rules of governance on how BDA operates. This is currently restrictive, as it requires permission from Charity Commission first before changes can be made.

**Special Resolution: That the articles of association of the Company be amended so that the existing Article 2 and the opening paragraph of Article 2A be removed in their entirety and replaced by the following wording:**

<b>2</b>	<b>Objects</b>
	The Association is established for the objects expressed in the Memorandum of Association.
	The Association is established to relieve Deaf people and to advance their education and training. In furtherance of such objects but not further the following powers:
<b>2A</b>	<b>Furtherance of Powers (as referred to in Article 2 above)</b>

**54 members voted to accept this resolution, with no objections. Unanimously approved.**

## **9. Special Announcements**

### **Francis Maginn Award:**

The Francis Maginn Award recognises the considerable work and efforts of people in the Deaf Community, with members submitting nominations to the Board for consideration.

The Chair (in lieu the Vice Chair) signed the citation of the nomination for the Francis Maginn Award to John Carberry for his highly influential work in deaf politics and involvement in sport. He is a true leader and opened countless doors for the Deaf Community and has been awarded an MBE for his efforts. John thanked all those present, the wider community and those who nominated him. He stressed that the award is not just

for him, but for all, as together we are strong. He also thanked his wife and the Northern Ireland BDA office for their support.

Trustee Trudi Collier signed the citation for the second Francis Maginn Award to Herbert Klein for his sterling 30 years work in ensuring access for deaf patients and professionals, particularly in the mental health domain. Herbert received the award with thanks and surprise and related why he started working in the field: a person told him “crying behind a wall, nobody hears you” and he is proud to be part of taking those walls down. He is a strong believer in access, has been taught so much along the way and is proud to see so many deaf professionals now working in the field.

### **BDA Certificate of Merit:**

The BDA Certificate of Merit acknowledges the work of those within the BDA, at Local, Regional and National levels.

Trustee Ashley Kendall signed the citation the BDA Certificate of Merit to Linda Day for her extensive efforts – often in a voluntary capacity – to ensure the best quality and results in her national and international work with sign language and linguistics, Bristol Deaf Studies, SWDA, and deaf business, as well as her involvement on the BDA Board, including three years as Vice Chair. A true role model with many achievements. Linda’s daughter Natalie accepted the Award on her behalf, delivering a short speech thanking all for the honour and grateful for the recognition. She has enjoyed her time with BDA and looks forward to her and family involvement in the future.

Trustee Sylvia Simmonds signed the BDA Certificate of Merit to Teddy Webb for over 60 years involvement in sport and deaf clubs on local, regional, national and international levels. He has been an active member and great supporter of BDA, involved in youth work and later on seniors as well. His involvement in sport saw him raise £100,000 for athletes competing in the Deaflympics, and he is well known for organising the GB swimming. His legacy lives on. Teddy received his award with thanks.

Trustee Sylvia Simmonds signed the BDA Certificate of Merit to Carole and Glen Harris for their work in setting up the Coventry Deaf Club and their ongoing involvement at local and regional levels in the Midlands. Carole was an inspiring Deaf Instructor and involved in CACDP assessing whilst Glen worked as a printer before qualifying as a specialist, and received an Honorary Fellowship from the Coventry Council. Their leadership and engagement with BDA is acknowledged, and they continue to play a crucial part in the Coventry Deaf Community. Carole and Glen unofficially received the awards some weeks prior, with the Award formally accepted on their behalf by Austin Reeves at the AGM.

### **Chair’s Award:**

The Chair presented the Chair's Award to Clive Mason for over 30 years work in media drawing positive attention to BSL. He started out as an engineer and researcher, before moving over to media and is an incredible role model who continues to influence the younger generations. Clive accepted the Award with thanks via video, saying that Deaf people never stop campaigning and he has pride in our culture, identity and education. We fight for the future generations.

The Chair presented the Chair's Award to Maisie Sly for her involvement in *The Silent Child* film and for her portrayal of the reality so many deaf children face in their day to day lives, highlighting the vital importance of sign language. Maisie received the Award with thanks via video, and was awarded with honorary membership of BDA.

### **Memorandum of Understanding with Heriot Watt University:**

The Chair provided background information on the Memorandum of Understanding: this will enable the expertise of the university and contacts within the Deaf Community to be shared in partnership, and to hopefully enable research into the big issues.

Gary Quinn representative of Heriot Watt has worked in the field for many years and is keen to bridge the gap between research and the Deaf Community. The Memorandum of Understanding is the first step to working together and will enable evidence to be shared that can be used as part of campaigning. He hopes this will encourage more universities to do the same.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Chair Terry Riley on behalf of British Deaf Association (BDA) and Gary Quinn on behalf of Heriot Watt University.

## **10. BDA Elections – Returning Officer's Report**

Returning Officer David Buxton summarised his Report for the members, including outlining the Trustee and Chair election processes. Eight (8) new Trustees have been elected, and after three calls for Chair, Agnes Dyab has been elected as the new Chair. A breakdown of the election results was provided on the PowerPoint, and he thanked all members for voting. He will also submit a report to the new Board with suggestions on improvements for future elections.

## **11. New Chair and Board of Trustees introduced to members**

The Chair introduced the new Chair Agnes Dyab and incoming Trustees Robert Adam (absent), Alexy Dury (absent), Abigail Gorman, Ashley Kendall (absent), Sarah Lawrence, Dawn Marshall, Tessa Padden and Sylvia Simmonds, and invited the incoming Chair to lead the new Board to the stage to be introduced to the members. The incoming Board thanked members for their votes.

The election results were accepted by the membership

## **12. Provisional Date of next AGM**

The provisional date for the next AGM is Saturday 26 January 2019 in Birmingham.

## **13. Chair tribute**

The Executive Director interrupted proceedings to acknowledge and honour the work of Outgoing Chair Terry Riley. Outgoing Vice Chair Linda Day (via video) outlined Terry's work as Chair for nine years: empowering, involvement in human rights, Medal of Honour recipient and OBE, guiding BDA through difficult times, his countless unpaid hours and his passion for heritage. The Chair was presented with the BDA Special Recognition Award for 2018, along with a gift. Terry expressed his surprise and thanks and emphasised that it's not just his efforts, but the efforts of all.

A tribute slide show was presented, acknowledging Terry's hard work and wishing him all the best for the future.

Gail Dixon from ASLI also provided a small gift to the outgoing Chair in thanks and congratulations.

## **14. Vote of thanks**

The Chair spoke of the legacy of previous Chairs, and left it with the members to consider his, whilst reminding all that it's not just his legacy, but that of the Board, staff and members. He is proud of his work with BSL Charter, Deaf Roots and Pride Project, PIP and DLA, and whilst he recognises the Scotland success and Northern Ireland efforts, he regrets that there was no BSL Act in his time as Chair. He offers his full support to the new Board and knows that it will be in safe hands with Agnes Dyab as the incoming Chair. He thanked his wife, family and grandchildren for their support, and thanked the members old and new.

In his last duty as Chair, he formally handed over the Chair Medal and responsibilities to Agnes Dyab. The Incoming Chair formally accepted this and acknowledged the work of the Outgoing Chair. She thanked the members for their support, and highlighted her ongoing passion for the BDA.

**The Outgoing Chair formally closed the BDA AGM for 2018 at 4:55pm.**