

British Deaf Association Minutes
Annual General Meeting relating to the financial year 2019-20

Saturday, 26 June 2021 at 10am via Zoom Video Conferencing

Attending:

Linda Richards – Chair
David Buxton – Treasurer
Michael Kyriakides – Paid Treasurer
Asif Iqbal and Sylvia Simmonds – Returning Officers

Members: 76 members attended the AGM virtually on Zoom.

1. Welcome and procedures

Linda Richards welcomed all attendees. This is the second BDA AGM using Zoom. The protocol is slightly different from a face-to-face meeting. Firstly, we use slides to introduce items. Secondly, I cannot see anybody. I know we have 85 people, so we are quorate. But if you wish to ask a question, use the “raise your hand” button. Some people don’t want to be recorded, so your names are not on this recording.

2. Remembering Departed Members and Friends

A silent moment was held in honour of BDA members who passed away in the past year including Freda Berridge, Geoff Cooper, Philip Currington, James Davidson, Pamela Dixon, Tommy Duff, Billy Duncan, Dawn Edwards, Husseyin Er, Peter Leach, Caron McEachran, Iain McIntyre, Edward Mitchell, Stephen Pearson, Mark Ryan, Mohammed Tahit, Lionel Webb, Hazel Wilcox.

3. Apologies for absence

These were received from Judith Funnell, Anne Luycas, Austin Reeves MBE, Lilian Young OBE.

4. Note the Minutes of the last AGM held 23rd January 2021

Linda Richards invited participants who had attended that meeting to ask questions or comment on the minutes.

John Denerley: There were 202 members registered at the last AGM. Can you confirm that they were all members of the BDA? Last week you sent an email to say that it would be necessary to check that all attending today were members.

Linda Richards: January was our first Zoom meeting and we have learned from that. It was not an open meeting and it was only for members. But we discovered that some people had shared the link and some observers came along. This time, we are verifying all names. I want to reassure you that the few non-members did not affect the quorum or any votes.

John Denerley: Thank you. I am happy with that.

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Proposer: John Denerley, seconder: Sylvia Simmonds.

The AGM Minutes of the AGM held 23 January 2021 were approved by the members: 70% approved; 1% rejected; 29% abstained.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

6. Summarised Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020

David Buxton (honorary treasurer) presented a summary of accounts from 2019-2020 by video. This was sent in advance to members.

The income for this year was down from £1,868,616 to £1,539,772. Expenditure went down by about 12% from £1,695,507 to £1,483,615. The surplus was £56,157. This looks positive but we need caution because it does not take into account the Pension Trust obligation of £150,000 annually. So really, we need more than £150,000 surplus each year to break income. So this is a challenging time. We are managing well but we need to consider our reserves and the pension deficit.

Ian Depledge: My question is about the Pension Trust liability, which is currently high. Will the BDA have money left? Could this lead to bankruptcy?

Michael Kyriakides: The pension obligation still exists. The unfunded amount is just over £500,000. We have to make contributions to the pension scheme up to 2025. If you look at the accounts for 2020, we have set aside some money for this. We have set aside money up to summer 2022. But we still need to fund the end of 2022, as well as 2023, 2024 and 2025. We need more surpluses to fund those future years. Unfortunately, this is a moving figure and we are hostage to the evaluations of our actuaries. So the figure in the 2020 accounts is a snapshot of that time. The honorary treasurer was correct that we need a surplus of £150,000 each year to fund that gap. We have made progress but there is still a way to go.

7. Note the Annual Report and Accounts for 2019-2020

Proposer: Penelope Beschizza, seconded by: Steven Leece

The Accounts for 2019-2022 were approved by the members: 76% approved; 1% rejected; 23% abstained.

8. Approve the appointment of Price Bailey as auditors to the company

We looked for a new auditor in order to save costs. We had been with the previous firm for about 10 years. We went through a tender process. 10 responded and we shortlisted four. These were all interviewed. We had questions and benchmarks. We then asked for references for our choice, which was Price Bailey. We got three references back. We felt this company was a good fit and that they understand our work.

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Jeffrey Brattan-Wilson: What criteria were you looking at? As a member, I would need a bit more detail.

Linda Richards: Their references were very good. They were able to advise us and they gave us additional information. We asked the tenderers whether they would register with all three bodies. This company was the only one that said they would, so it saved us work. They explained the timelines, and showed us their tracking system. We also said we wanted to complete 2021 year end by September and they agreed, whereas this year, there were very tight deadlines. It is a saving of 10%, ie about £1,000.

Proposer: David Walker, seconded by: Simon Hesselberg.

The auditors were approved by the members: 90% approved; 0% rejected; 10% abstained.

9. Election of the Chair of, and Trustees to, the Board

This item was presented by Asif Iqbal by video.

We have two independent returning officers to oversee this process – myself and my colleague, Sylvia Simmonds. We are independent and external. We verify nominations to ensure they comply with the articles of association.

The process started on 4th May with a deadline for nominations of 26th May at midday. We only had one nomination for Trustees so no ballot is needed. We had a withdrawal on June 22nd for Chair so we have vacancies. This means there is no competition and the person is automatically nominated.

Robert Adam is welcomed as a Trustee appointed in June 2021. The other trustees are David Buxton, John Carberry and Lesley Davidson, who were appointed on 26th October 2019.

Linda Richards: The new Board will decide the next steps but there will be a handover. Thank you to the retiring Board. I sincerely wish the new Board the best of luck.

10. Close of Business and Thanks.

That is the close of business. We have a lot of people to thank but that will come up at the end of Part 2. The AGM is now closed.