

Draft Minutes of the 46th AGM of the British Dyslexia Association

Held at Coventry University, Richard Crossman building, first floor. Room RC124, Jorden Well, Coventry CV1 5RW on the 12th January 2019.

The AGM was attended by members from Local Dyslexia Associations and Individual members and a count showed that the meeting was quorate. It was chaired by David Williams, Joint Chair. The meeting started at 1'33 and concluded at 3'25.

Report from Chairs – Presented by David Williams:

Overview of Activity:

The BDA's new Joint Chairs, David Williams and John Levell took over in December 2017.

It was felt to be beneficial that the role be split with each chairperson having a particular focus, David's being education and children and John's being adults and employment.

There has been a period of change at the BDA over the last 12 months with a change in Chair person and a new CEO.

The BDA is in a good financial position with financial reserves in line with our reserves policy.

This year the BDA had achieved a lot of goals; we continue to lobby hard to improve the lives of dyslexic individuals and there has been substantial investment to improve how the BDA services are provided. Investment includes a new CRM system and currently a new website is under construction.

The BDA is a highly complex organisation with the breadth and range of probably 5 or 6 individual organisations.

The Chairs would like to thank Helen Boden and the BDA team for all their hard work over the last 10 months.

In a period of great uncertainty and austerity the BDA continues to campaign for lasting and sustainable change for the benefit of dyslexic people.

Lobbying is an important part of the BDA's work and we have many key political, cross party, contacts in place.

Equally we are forming links with other organisations. JLL hosted an event with us recently at which over 50 leaders of business attended to discuss the benefits of neurodiversity in the workplace and how these can be harnessed.

We have recently reported on the cost benefits of neurodiversity and launched an updated Code of Practice for Employers along with a Professional Membership Tier for Workplace Practitioners and a Linked In network for dyslexia networks in a variety of organisations.

For a small organisation with a small staff the BDA punches well above its weight and does some great work, however we do need to get better at telling people what we do and there will be a concerted effort to raise the BDA's profile over the coming months.

Elections:

Voting to Re-Appoint Vice Presidents:

Unanimously agreed to re-appoint current Vice President (1 abstention)

Voting to Re-Appoint President:

Unanimously agreed

Voting for x2 LDA Trustee Appointments:

Fay Dutton and Delia Hazell were appointed

Voting for x2 Individual Membership Trustee Appointments:

Liane Cockram and Patrick Keaveney were appointed

Finance Presentation:

Since the BDA had not got a new treasurer in place at the time of the AGM, the COO who manages the Finance presented the audited accounts overview for year 2017/18. These show a surplus for the year of £198,861 which brings our unrestricted reserves to £824,565. The members voted and approved the Accounts for 2017/18. In addition, the auditors, James Cowper Kreston, were reappointed and the trustee Board was authorised to agree their remuneration.

CEO presentation:

A year in Numbers:

We had 600 delegates attend our International Conference in Telford. Going forward the format will be back to its roots and be academic.

Donna run 21 webinars during the year, which helps Teachers where funding is scarce to access information either free or at a minimal cost, without having to travel.

Awareness Week we reached 32 million, we are looking on building on that for next year.

Education conference reached approximately 380 people

We have 420 candidates on the Level 5 Dyslexia course, this is important as ultimately this means we will have 420 specialist teachers on the ground teaching.

We are assessing about 1440 people a year.

We are delivering 11 free to attend parent roadshows across the country, Helen explained she felt we had lost touch with our roots. These are listed on the events page on our website.

Questions:

Would the Dyslexia Champions Programme be included?

HB: No because this “product” does not belong to the BDA but we work closely with Janette Beetham in this area.

Will the Code of Practice become law?

HB: No because it is a Code of Practice, but it is a clear framework upon which organisations can build.

How many staff does the BDA have?

AL: Total 27 but many of these work remotely and part time.

HB identified that the BDA has a very talented and committed team. Senior Managers & areas of responsibility:

- Angelique Lyon – Chief Operating Officer
- Rachael McMullen – Education Manager
- Sue Flohr – Head of Policy
- Donna Stevenson – Events & Conferences Manager
- Callum Heckstall-Smith – Head of Media, Marketing and Communications
- Karen Mace – Head of Assessments & Professional Level Training
- Liz Horobin – Onsite & Open Training Manager.

Date of Next AGM: March 2020 exact date to be confirmed