

Draft Minutes of the 47th AGM of the British Dyslexia Association

Held Virtually due to Covid -19 on the 12th September 2020.

The meeting started at 10'00 and concluded at 10'38.

The 47th AGM was attended by members from Local Dyslexia Associations, Individual members, and Organisational members, 81 had registered to attend and 52 attended on the day, so the meeting was quorate.

The AGM was chaired by Colin Gallick, Chair.

Colin went through the attendance and apologies.

He explained who could vote, the members then voted and approved the minutes of the 46th AGM. (Resolution 1). He then Introduced Tim Neale to present the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report presented by Tim Neale, Treasurer

Tim gave an overview of the audited accounts for year 2018/19. These showed a surplus for the year of £58,851 which brings our unrestricted reserves to £845,990 which comfortably meets BDA's reserve policy which is to retain 3 months of unrestricted expenditure.

The members voted and approved the Accounts for 2018/19 (Resolution 2). In addition, the auditors, James Cowper Kreston, were reappointed and the trustee Board was authorised to agree their remuneration. (Resolution 3). Tim also put forward to the members the Approval of Colin Gallick as Chair of the Trustees and asked them to vote. (Resolution 4)

Trustees' Report presented by Colin Gallick, Chair

Colin thanked the members for voting him in as chair of the Trustees as well as to all the all of the BDA staff during difficult times at micro and macro level, he also thanked the trustees as well as John Levell and David Williams, the previous Co-Chairs.

The current climate is deeply challenging with poor funding from government, yet we are seeing the development of a strong positive dyslexia movement, particularly in employment.

The Dyslexia Creates event was hugely popular and sold out in a matter of minutes. At this point in time, we hope to be able to run this event again next year but due to Covid-19 this may not be possible.

BDA policy work continues to be developed and continues to lobby for a better legislative and funding environment for people who are dyslexic. We are well established as the secretariat for the APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group) for Dyslexia and Specific Learning Difficulties and reports have been produced about the human and educational cost of dyslexia which have been well received both within parliament and picked up extensively by media.

Our profile has been extensively increased in the last 12 months and the BDA has been quoted in a variety of media.

On the front line: our Roadshows for parents continued at local level. Our Empowered Parents guide this year was produced with huge support from our ambassador Leighton Denny, we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for this.

Our Helpline continues to be our frontline of support which we offer to anybody who needs it and are pleased to once again have received sponsorship by Scanning Pens for a part-time specialist which has helped the advice we can offer and the capacity of our helpline.

All of our activities on policy and our work on the ground would not be possible without fundraising vital funds, this continues to be a challenge and our gala dinner which is an important fundraising event will unfortunately not be happening this year due to covid but hope to be in 2021.

Our President Lord Addington was re-appointed, he does an outstanding job at representing us as well as our Vice Presidents.

Colin introduced BDA's new CEO who joined the BDA on the 1st September 2020

CEO's Report presented by Nick Posford, CEO

He gave an overview of his background and then presented his report for the period April 2018-March 2019.

Gala Dinner in December 2018 was well attended , BDA's International conference took place in Telford and the next one is currently being planned for 2021 which will have to be virtual but should be as good as our face to face one. Webinars have been popular.

Training is fundamental to the business side, it is also our opportunity to continue our work in training teachers in Dyslexia and Dyscalculia from Level 2 to 7. Our virtual training was well received during these strange times. We continue our bespoke training in schools and workplaces which are tailored to specific needs/demands.

The accreditation service has been reviewed to ensure it is efficient and accessible. New CPD courses were developed to continue our support to those achieving accreditation.

The dyslexia friendly good practice guide continues to be our best seller publication.

Our Assessment services continue to strive.

The challenge for BDA is adapting to a new way of working due to covid-19, we are rotating staff in the office as well as getting some working from home. Nick paid tribute to the work BDA staff have done and that of volunteers for the organisation.

In terms of plans, given the pressure across the economy we need to make sure we are strategic in our actions, and identify which activities are most helpful in achieving our goals and ensure we have clarity on what those goals should be as determined by people with dyslexia and all stakeholders.

Trustee vacant position election results

Individual member - we had 2 applicants Liesl Lobo and Michelle Catterson. Michelle Catterson was the winner with 16 votes.

Colin asked members to approve Michelle as new IM trustee representative (resolution 5)

Organisational member – we had 3 applicants Dr Nasser Siabi, Arran Smith and Mark Sherin. Arran Smith and Mark Sherin won respectively with 23 votes and 24 votes.

Colin asked members to approve Arran and Mark as new OM trustee representative (resolution 6)

Colin thanked Claudia and Nicky for their help in organising the AGM event.

Election results.

Resolution 1 – Approval of the minutes of the minutes of the 46th AGM

84.21% in favour – 15.79% abstained

Resolution 2 – Approval of the Accounts for 2018-2019

90.48% in favour - 9.52% abstained

Resolution 3 – Approval of the appointment and remuneration of auditors

92.11% in Favour – 7.89% abstained

Resolution 4 – Approval of Colin Gallick as Chair of Trustees

83.72% in Favour – 16.28% abstained

Resolution 5 – Approval of the newly elected IM trustee

90.48% in favour – 9.52% abstained

Resolution 6 – Approval of newly elected OM trustees

95.56% in Favour – 4.44% abstained

Date of next AGM: 13th March 2021 (expected to be virtual again)