

British Dental Association Benevolent Fund

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 18 September 2018 at 3.30pm
Upper Mews, 64 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 8YS



MINUTES

Present: 37 people attended the AGM and their names were recorded on the register.

1 Welcome from the Patron

Dr Susie Sanderson, the Patron of the British Dental Association, gave a warm welcome to everyone at the BDA Benevolent Fund's 135th Annual AGM and introduced the Chairman, Professor Ros Keeton, Vice Chairman, Dr Bill Nichols, Treasurer, Dr Ann Rockey and Secretary Dr Allan Franklin.

2 Apologies

Dr Allan Franklin, read out apologies from 17 people.

3 Minutes of the last AGM – held on 30 June 2017 (AGM 2/2018)

The minutes of the 2017 AGM (*AGM 2/2018*) held on 30 June 2017, were approved and signed.

4 Matters arising from the last AGM

There were no matters arising.

5 Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017 presented by the Treasurer (AGM3/2018)

Dr Ann Rockey presented the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017 and took the opportunity to let people know what the charity had done since the last meeting. Last year the charity had more applications of working age, the average applicant was 41, the youngest 26. There were 24 applications received in 2017 compared with 19 in 2016. The Fund has received 29 applications so far this year (2018).

There was a retendering exercise for Accountants and Auditors as well as for Investment Managers in November 2017 as part of a best practice exercise to review the charity's suppliers and contractors. The current investment managers, Investec Ltd will continue with the Fund based on their competitive fee and previous performance. Kingsmill Partnership were appointed as the new Auditors and

Accountants, as they impressed the Trustees in the tender process, replacing CAS House Limited.

Dr Ann Rockey reported that a conscious decision by the Trustees was made to move away from offering loans. Two loans were made in 2017 and no loans had been made in 2018. The Fund had converted £23,000 from outstanding loans to grants in 2017. The regular and seasonal grants were increased by 6%. School holiday grants were increased from £115 per child to £180 per child. School uniform grants were increased to £100 for primary school children and £150 for secondary school children from July 2017. In 2017 the Fund gave out £151,000 in grants (£134,000 in 2016).

She reported that although income is unpredictable, individual and branch donations remain good. The Fund had extra support from LDCs and had a strong return on its investments over the last few years.

Dr Ann Rockey gave a brief report on the Fund's investment portfolio over the last 10 years, taking into account the progress since the market crash in 2008. In recent times, income from investments has remained stable. Although the Fund has a reasonable sized portfolio, no additional funds have been added and the growth in its value had followed the stock market.

A proposal to accept the Annual Report and Accounts for 2017 was put forward and unanimously agreed.

7 Report from the Chairman

Prof Ros Keeton reflected that the Charity had been created over 135 years ago, but was still much needed today. In 2017, over 65 people were assisted financially – beneficiaries were getting younger and applications were sent in from both students and Foundation Trainees.

The Charity has six strategic objectives and Prof Ros Keeton focused her report on four of these:

Promoting awareness

The charity continues to use some traditional methods of advertising; however, its primary focus for development over the last two years has been social media, based particularly on the use of Facebook and involvement in a number of Facebook dental groups. At the same time, Prof Ros Keeton, together with the staff team, had embarked on a major exercise, writing to key dentistry leaders across the U.K. It was hoped that both of these approaches would be effective and early signs were positive.

Responding sympathetically, effectively and efficiently

The charity should not be measured by grant giving alone. It plays an important role in providing a listening ear and signposting to sources of advice and ongoing support. Urgent requests for assistance continued to receive a quick response and grants could and were made available within 48 hours. Partnership working with the Dental Health Support Trust and other charities remains key to getting the best outcome for dentists and their families.

Financial independence

The charity works with a primary aim of assisting beneficiaries back to financial independence. In 2017, 15 beneficiaries achieved this. Many wish to return to dentistry, however, this is now both lengthy and costly. Support over the last year had included; grants for continuing professional development; for the General Dental Council's Annual Retention Fee; and towards indemnity. Where this is not possible, assistance into other employment, access to pensions or benefits has been promoted and equally supported.

Sector best practice

Since 2016, the charity sector had received a flood of new guidance and requirements e.g. the new Charities Act, the Code of Governance, new fundraising regulations and GDPR etc. These had affected all charities and the way they work. The Benevolent Fund had undertaken considerable work during 2017, aiming to ensure the charity reflects best practice. Much of this work is reflected in the future Rule changes that are proposed for 2019.

Prof Ros Keeton concluded her report by thanking all the Fund's donors, promoters, supporters and team of staff. Prof Ros Keeton also expressed thanks to all those who had helped and supported the charity in the last year. This included the British Dental Association who provide the Fund with office accommodation and meeting rooms. She thanked the BDA and Closer Still Media for allowing the presence at the British Dental Conference and Dentistry Show which helped raise awareness about the work the charity does - supporting colleagues and their families who find themselves in need. She thanked the BDA Facilities Team for all their assistance throughout the year, including arrangements for the AGM.

Prof Ros Keeton thanked all the Trustees for giving up their free time. A special thank you was given to Dr Bill Nichols who was standing down after over 20 years. He was an exceptional trustee for the charity, including having been a Treasurer and recently the Vice Chairman.

8 Resolutions to amend the Rules

Prof Ros Keeton explained that the three proposals to amend the governing document – the Rules of the charity, due to be taken at the meeting as per the agenda would all be put on hold. Instead, they would be modified and taken for consideration at the 2019 AGM.

She articulated that the Rules had not been looked at for over 30 years and needed to be brought in line with current best practice and legal guidelines. The Board had been looking at making amendments to ensure the charity was efficient and fit for purpose. Notice to amend the Rules including the proposed version of the new Rules had been sent out in July 2018 to those members the charity had details of and via the British Dental Journal in accordance with their governing document.

However, following concerns from the Principle Executive Committee of the BDA about some of the proposed alterations, it was felt that postponing all of the resolutions would allow for further communication. One of the main changes was in relation to the membership and Prof Ros Keeton was pleased to report that the BDA had subsequently offered the charity access to their [shared] membership database. This was a good alternative solution to the issues involved with having and contacting a wider membership the charity was facing but one that needed to be worked through.

The charity had also proposed an amendment to the structure and the make-up of the Board of Trustees and the potential to create an Advisory Council. There was strong support for this and positive feedback amongst stakeholders.

Other amendments related to ‘administration’ and clarification of processes such as voting, attendance at meetings and banking as well as establishing alternative methods of voting such e.g. proxy voting at AGMs. These would allow the charity to be more effective and democratic.

Prof Ros Keeton hoped people would accept the Fund’s proposals in due course and asked for any feedback to be given to the Trustees or staff.

Dr Sanderson asked if anyone had any questions to put forward. Questions in relation to membership, relationship with the BDA, data protection, beneficiaries and finances were put forward which were answered by Prof Ros Keeton.

8 Election of Officers

Dr Susie Sanderson announced that the following nominations were received:

Chairman	Prof Ros Keeton
Vice-Chairman	Dr Austin Banner

Treasurer Dr Ann Rockey

Secretary Dr Allan Franklin

Resolved: All were elected unopposed on a show of hands. Dr Susie Sanderson congratulated the elected Officers and wished the charity every success in the coming year.

9 Appointment of Vice President

Prof Ros Keeton reminded the AGM that Vice Presidencies were awarded to Trustees and others who had made significant contributions to the Fund. The Board proposed Dr Bill Nichols to be Vice President to be approved by the members. The appointment was unanimously approved by the Members at the AGM.

Dr Bill Nichols thanked the Patron and Chairman and said he was surprised and pleased to accept the honour. He was delighted to have served with all the Trustees over the years.

10 Any other business

A member of the AGM thanked the staff for their work on regularly updating and creating Facebook posts as it was nice to obtain regular information, which she could then share with other people to help raise awareness of the charity.

11 Date of next AGM

The Fund's 136th Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 13 June 2019.

There being no other business, Dr Susie Sanderson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4.25pm.