

British Dental Association Benevolent Fund

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



CANDIDATES WHO ARE STANDING FOR ELECTION AS TRUSTEES

On Wednesday 29th June 2022 5pm – 6pm

[Link for meeting](#)



Shafaq Ali

Working to improve the lives of others is a passion that, like many others, led me to dentistry in the first place. After my Young Onset Parkinson’s diagnosis, I discovered a newfound urgency to maximise my impact. This manifested in a desire to facilitate the provision of services, dental and otherwise, as widely as possible. I became involved with several charities in fundraising and awareness campaigns, which has given me media engagement experience and transferrable skills that would be helpful as a Benevolent Fund Trustee.

Working with the BDA Benevolent Fund would provide unique opportunities to give back to my own Dental community in a way that resonates with the changes in my own life circumstances. I believe I have the motivation, personal insight, and enthusiasm to be a Trustee. If appointed, I look forward to working with a team committed to making a difference and furthering the Charity’s good work.



Richard Hems

I have 40 years’ experience in dentistry, have founded and run two successful practices, one delivering general dentistry, the other a dedicated specialist referral centre. In March 2020, due to illness, I took the decision to retire from practice to receive treatment which is now successfully complete. Over the last year I have been working as a part time Honorary Lecturer with final year dental students at Queen Mary University of London, supporting future generations of dentists whilst also being acutely aware of the challenges they face. I have also been Chairman and Secretary of the Suffolk and Ipswich BDA section, helping to raise funds for the BDA Benevolent Fund. I hope to be able to bring my business and financial management skills to the Charity as a Trustee. I would welcome the opportunity to give back by helping the Charity continue its support for those who need it.



Derek Manson

I first became aware of the BDA Benevolent Fund about 15 years ago when I was appointed Levy Fund treasurer. The levy makes an annual contribution and I began to take an interest in services provided. Recently I have been fundraising within our Branch. With over 32 years' experience I have a broad knowledge of our profession from being an Associate to practice owner. Owning a practice and other business interests have given me skills in financial and personnel management. Being active in dental politics, I have assisted colleagues with problems and helped to set up services following health policy to aid the profession. Many of our younger colleagues are very stressed and morale among dentists is low. Covid has exacerbated this further with demands on the fund increasing. I would welcome the opportunity to use the skills and knowledge gained to give something back to my profession and help those in need.



Menna Shykhon

I am a Dental Core Trainee and graduated in 2020. As a young dentist, I appreciate the struggles faced by dental students and recent graduates, especially in the current climate. I believe further support for clinicians should be available. During university, I joined the committee of Birmingham Student Action for Refugees, a student-led national charity. As Secretary I recruited volunteers and successfully applied for funding to set up new projects. As Chair, I was able to effectively manage a committee of nine. These experiences developed transferrable organisational and team-working skills. I understand the ways in which charities are run, including fundraising and financing. I appreciate the pivotal role of Trustees and I feel my previous experience would make me an ideal candidate. The work of the BDA Benevolent Fund is admirable and I would thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to take this further.