

**British Dental Association Benevolent Fund****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**

Wednesday 29 June 2022 at 5pm

**Meeting conducted via electronic means**

CHARITY FOR ALL  
**DENTISTS**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING****Present on behalf of the BDA Benevolent Fund:**

Ros Keeton (Chairman) (RK)	Alex Gormley (AG)	Philip Henderson (PH)
Austin Banner (Vice Chairman) (AJB)	Peter Crooks (PC)	Molly Deykin (MD)
Chris Hayward (Treasurer) (CH)	Allan R Franklin (ARF)	Stuart Robson (SR)

**In attendance:**

Faye Serlin (Administrator) (FS)	Laura Hannon (General Manager) (LH)
Liz Kay (Patron) (LK)	

An additional 20 Members / guests, not including in the names listed above, were recorded on the register.

**No.      Item****Welcome from the Patron**

LK welcomed everyone to the BDA Benevolent Fund's 139th AGM and the third virtual AGM. LK introduced the Chairman, Treasurer, General Manager and Administrator. The protocol for attending a virtual meeting was explained and LK informed the attendees that the meeting was being recorded.

LK pointed out that questions would be taken at each agenda item, by attendees raising their hand (physically or using the relevant button). Under the Rule provisions, the numbers required for the AGM to be quorate is 10. LH confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

**1.      Apologies**

LK stated that a list of apologies could be found on the website and there were no late apologies to add.

**2.      Minutes of the last AGM – held on 2 September 2020 (AGM2/2021)**

The minutes of the 2021 AGM (AGM2/2020) held on 3 September, were approved with no comments.

**3.      Matters arising from the last AGM**

No matters arising were brought forward.

#### 4. **Chairman's report**

In her presentation, RK noted that the number of applications to the charity in 2021 was higher than pre-pandemic levels but were lower in 2021 than in 2020. There had also been a downward shift in the average age of the applicants to 31 years of age as opposed to pre-pandemic when it was in the late 40's. RK felt that the average age will continue to drop in 2022 as dental student undergraduate courses had been extended, some parental support was no longer available and the pressure not to work part time to supplement income whilst studying would lead to an ongoing high number of dental student applications.

The BDA Benevolent Fund conducted its own research into the needs of dental students in October 2021, the results of which were published in March 2022. The findings were very sobering; 74% reported that they had financial issues and 90% reported wellbeing issues including stress and burn out. The profession as a whole need to tackle and take on board these findings. RK noted that the charity intends to repeat the survey to gain further insights so we can provide the help that is most needed. RK also stated that the charity is supporting the #liveable NHS bursary campaign, which aims to get better financial support from the government for medical and dental students.

RK discussed the charity's new strategic approach to marketing, which focusses on the work that we do. The key performance indicators (KPI's) and supporting data are already showing the impact of using social media more widely and more effectively, to get the message across. The new branding and updated website have also assisted making our mission clearer as the 'Charity for All Dentists'.

RK stated that the charity wouldn't be able to operate without the help of our supporters. These included Local Dental Committees, the BDA, the dental industry, and the many individuals who donate and help to raise funds on our behalf. She thanked them all wholeheartedly for their unwavering support.

RK went on to thank all the Trustees and staff especially noting the contributions of the three retiring Trustees:

Firstly, ARF who has been a Trustee for almost 20 years. She noted his flexible, can-do attitude and hands on approach, particularly with beneficiaries. Secondly SR, an elder statesman of dentistry who provided invaluable political and dental experience. He had been a Trustee for 16 years more recently assisting through the finance sub-committee. Finally, PH, also a Trustee for 16 years, representing Northern Ireland giving the charity a different nation perspective. His hard work and diligence particularly as part of the grant making committee, had ensured that we responded to applicants in a timely fashion.

There were no questions following the Chairman's report.

**Resolved: The Chairman's report was adopted**

5. **Receipt of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 and report from the Treasurer**

CH highlighted there was a reduction in income of £27,000 in 2021 compared to the previous year. The lower legacy and donation income had been slightly offset by investment income.

By investing in marketing, the charity was raising awareness not only with dentists but with the wider dental industry. The charity continues to receive huge support from the LDCs and pleasingly BDA branches had increased donations by £6,000 over the preceding year. Individual legacies had increased and hopefully will continue to do so given the will writing service scheme.

CH explained that there was a slight reduction in the amount of grants paid out, but increases in other areas, such as the investment in marketing and research. The expenditure overall was £6,000 below the last year.

CH advised that all financial policies were reviewed in the year; all our regular beneficiaries also receive an annual financial review.

SR commented that the uplift in donations was excellent and asked a question about whether this was a direct consequence of the new approach to marketing. CH agreed that this was the most likely explanation but also noted that the Trustees should be thanked for spreading the word. LH suggested that as people couldn't meet at events for most of 2020 and part of 2021, there had been fewer opportunities to donate and hoped as people began to meet in person again that donations would increase.

CH re-iterated the importance of Gift Aid as it allows the Charity to collect an additional 25% on top of the individual donations. He also requested that donors supporting the organisations by making direct donations into the bank account let us know with a phone call or email so that we match up the donation, attribute it to the right place and say thank you.

Bill Nichols asked how the investments were being managed. CH confirmed that we continue to look at the long term and our investment manager understands this.

Annette Wylie noted that was a substantial amount of cash in hand. CH confirmed this had been moved into the investment portfolio to give a better return.

**Resolved: The Annual Report and Accounts for 2021 were adopted.**

6. **Election of new Trustees**

Following the retirement of ARF, PH and SR the Charity had three Trustee vacancies (plus one existing). These had been advertised on the website, on

social channels and in newsletters. Four candidates had put themselves forward and their details had been provided on our website and as part of the papers. LH confirmed all the candidates for election were registered as attending the meeting. Voting was via an electronic poll and could only be done by members of the BDA or Partnership members of the BDA Benevolent Fund.

A poll was shared, and the members were asked to confirm, deny or abstain their agreement for Drs Shafaq Hussain, Richard Helms, Derek Manson and Menna Shykhon to be elected as Trustees. It was noted there was one proxy vote to be given to the Chairman.

All candidates were elected with a majority. LK thanked the new Trustees for standing and wished them well in their new role.

**Resolved: The election of all four candidates as Trustees was confirmed.**

**7. Any other business**

SR addressed the new Trustees, welcomed them, and thanked them for standing. As he had 'represented' those in Yorkshire, he wanted to know if any of the new Trustees were based in this area. It was confirmed that Shafaq Hussain was based in Wakefield. SR would liaise with Shafaq Hussain to carry on his previous work in fundraising and raising awareness.

**8. Closing remarks**

LK thanked everyone for attending and for their support on behalf of the Trustees and all the applicants to the charity. She stated that the BDA Benevolent Fund is a remarkable organisation.

The meeting finished at 5.45pm

The date of the BDA Benevolent Fund's 140th Annual General Meeting will be on 28 June 2023 at 5pm.