# BRITISH AND IRISH ORTHOPTIC SOCIETY MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 04 MAY 2022 AT CONFERENCE ASTON, ASTON UNIVERSITY, BIRMINGHAM, COMMENCING AT 11.35am

57 members attended

**Panel**:
Veronica Greenwood, Chair BIOS
Deborah Podmore, President of BOSTU
Richard Huzzey, BIOS Policy Officer, representing BDA Business management team
Steve Doughty, Crossley Accountants

- **Welcome and Apologies for absence**

Veronica Greenwood welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced the panel. She noted that the AGM concerned the calendar year 2021.

Apologies for absence were received from Julie Dowdney, Rebecca Pinches, and Sam Aitkenhead

- **Minutes of the 2021 AGM**

Krishan Parmar proposed that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record, and Eleanor Burley seconded. The Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

- **Chair's Report**

Veronica Greenwood presented the Chair's report, noting in particular the Society's strong financial position and the increased profile of the profession, with orthoptist Rahilah Bukhari named CAHPO AHP of the Year in 2021, and Helen Davis, Chair of EPDC receiving an OBE in the Queen's New Year Honours. She then drew out some of the highlights from the year in relation to the Society's strategic priorities.

A member asked about the location of the new pre-registration MSc at the University of Liverpool and it was confirmed that this would be based at the Liverpool campus but was open to home learners.

A further question had been pre-submitted, asking whether it would have been possible to have had the AGM as a hybrid event, allowing for virtual attendance. The Trustees felt that it was very important to have a face-to-face event following two years where this was not possible, and that it was not economically feasible to set this up as a hybrid event this year but would be something the trustees would consider in the future.

- **Financial Statements**

Steve Doughty presented the Accounts, representing Crossley's, who have been conducting BIOS's account since January 2019. He reported a positive financial situation, with a net income for the year contributing to health reserves.

There were no questions on the financial report.

Declan McClements proposed and Sonia MacDiarmid seconded acceptance of the Accounts, and these were unanimously accepted.

- **Trustees**

Veronica Greenwood presented the list of Trustees and welcomed those new to role.

- Chair: Veronica Greenwood
- Vice-Chair: Julie Dowdney
- Midlands and East Region: Rebecca Pinches – new to role
- Northern Region: Deborah Podmore
- Southern Region: Kelly MacKenzie
- Northern Ireland: Declan McClements
- Republic of Ireland: Vacant
- Scotland: Angela Carlin
- Wales: Patrick Reedy
- Chair of LOOP: Krishan Parmar

Veronica Greenwood thanked Craig Murray for accepting the Chair Designate role and advised he would be BIOS chair from the 2023 AGM.

Veronica Greenwood presented the list of council members and welcomed those new to role.

- Chair of EPDC – Helen Davis
- IOA Representative – Jignasa Mehta – New to role
- OCE Representative – Nadia Northway – New to role
- Research Director – Kerry Hanna
- Public Health Lead – Fiona Bush
- BIOJ Editor – Gemma Arblaster – New to role
- EDI Lead - Marian Owoniyi – New to role
- New graduate representative – Holly Kniazewycz

Veronica thanked those that were previous members of council for their hard work and dedication.

- **Resolution**

The meeting discussed the resolution that Article 12 of the BIOS Articles of Association be amended as specified in the accompanying documentation to the AGM. This would allow for the appointment of Lay Trustees.

A pre-submitted question was read out relating to the use of the term ‘mental disorder’ in Article 12.7 and whether there was a more appropriate term that could be used. It was noted that the term is taken directly from the Mental Health Act, and therefore has a specific legal definition. The Trustees may decide to amend this in future, likely as part of a wider review of the Articles.

A member asked whether there were any disadvantages to the change. It was felt by the Trustees that this was outweighed by the advantage of ensuring the necessary skills were present. It was also asked if there was a maximum number of lay Trustees. There is none but they are not able to make up more than one third of the Trustees.

The resolution was approved with the following votes cast:

- For: 47 (0 proxy)
- Against: 0 (0 proxy)

Veronica Greenwood thanked the members of the Board of Trustees and Council, including those that had left, volunteers, TU reps, and the staff at Crossley’s and the BDA.

There was no other business, and the meeting ended at 12.03