



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by Zoom Video Conferencing on Saturday 25 June 2022 at 11.00 hours.

The Chairman welcomed members to the Meeting.

29 Members were present.

The list of members who had died was read as follows: Michael Toll, Roger Fisher, Martin Charlton, Revd Jonathan Boston, Dr Peter Chatfield, Dr Michael Sayers, Dr Francis Jackson, Alfred Champriss, and David Frostick.

1. Apologies

These were received from: Roger Allen, Robert Baker, John Brennan, Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, Andrew Hayden, Henry Macey, John Radford, John Rowntree, Alan Taylor and Mark Venning.

2. Minutes

It was agreed by the meeting that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 3 July 2021 should be accepted and these would be signed outside the Meeting.

3. Matters arising

There were none.

4. Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report: The Chairman read his Report to the meeting (printed in the AGM booklet). In summary, he noted that:

- The year has seen the beginnings of a return to something approaching normality. In April, for the first time since January 2020, members of Council were able to meet together in London for a 'real' meeting. In November 2021, we managed a small gathering of members for the Christmas Lunch but, that apart, this AGM was our first meeting of members since the Bernard Edmonds Research Conference at the end of February 2020. We hope that members will be keen to support the 'Herschel' day in Bath later on in the year.
- Two significant highlights of the past year have been the completion of the project to update and modernise the appearance of the NPOR, making it more user-friendly when viewed on the small screens of smartphones, and also the publication of Jim Berrow's book on John Nicholson. Entering the world of publishing has been something of a challenge, but we learn by experience. Council remains keen to develop this aspect of our work and to promote academic books which fulfil our charitable remit to 'educate the public'.
- As always, the continuing success of BIOS relies on the hard work and dedication to the task of a very committed team. Of these, around thirty carry the main burden of responsibility for the central administration (the Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary) as well as the specialised areas of the NPOR, Casework, Publications, the Listing of organs, the At-Risk Register, the Historic Organs Sound Archive, the Organ Archive, Heritage and Meetings.
- However, as we all get older, it is vital that we recruit those of a younger age to take on responsibility for the future. At the moment we have one unfilled post - that of Casework Officer - and one post shortly to become vacant when member Tim Gray steps down as our NPOR Fund Co-ordinator. The Fund Co-ordinator is a post which can be done entirely from home. The Casework Officer is a more major role, but a vital one in terms of our important work as an Amenity Society. For the moment, and



since the retirement of Andrew Hayden from the post, the Secretary and I are handling casework referrals between us, but this is not ideal for the longer term. With a view to the future of BIOS, Council is hoping to identify a younger member to take on this important role.

- John Brennan had overseen the printing and production of every annual BIOS Journal since the very first one, but has decided that the time has come to draw stumps. He has kindly given us good notice that at the end of this year the 2022 Journal (Volume 46) will be his last. The quality, design and production of these volumes, plus the high standards he has always set for style and consistency in the presentation of the text, are legendary and have won high praise for BIOS in academic circles. The task of identifying a worthy successor was being pursued.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.

4.2 Secretary's Report: The Report printed in the AGM Booklet was accepted by the Meeting subject to amending the text to record that the Joint Steering Committee for the British Organ Archive (BOA) met twice during the year by Zoom.

4.3 Treasurer's Report:

4.3.1 *Presentation and approval of accounts for the period ended 31 December 2021:* The BIOS Annual Report and Financial Statements for the period ended 31 December 2021 were printed in the AGM booklet. This was in the prescribed format under the *Charities Act 2011* a format that had been adopted since 2010.

4.3.2 *Financial Review of the Year & Statement of Financial Activities* – Adrian Mumford drew attention to a number of salient points:

- it had been an unusual year but in financial terms had proved satisfactory since there was a surplus of income over expenditure which was reassuring as we enter a period of financial uncertainty
- Unrestricted Funds were very strong indeed – currently we spend about 50% of our annual income on the Journal and Reporter whilst also providing a small top-up to the NPOR Fund
- Restricted Funds continued to support significant projects e.g., the recent Nicholson Book
- the NPOR Fund remained supported by one-off individual donations and regular standing orders
- there did not appear to be any need to increase Membership subscriptions in the short or medium term
- the Independent Examiner was thanked for signing off the Accounts expeditiously earlier in the year.

The Accounts were accepted by the Meeting.

4.3.3 *Appointment of an Independent Examiner:* The appointment of Jonathan Hunt as Independent Examiner for 2022 financial statements was proposed by the Chairman and approved by the Meeting.

4.3.4 *Subscription Rates:* No changes were proposed.

4.4 Membership Secretary: David Shepherd's Report was printed in the AGM booklet. It was noted that very few members still had to pay their 2021 subscription. It was noted that David Shepherd intended to stand down from the role in 2 years' time.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.

4.5 Publications:



4.5.1 Publications Officer - The Report was printed in the AGM booklet. Katie Pardee drew attention to 2 updates: (i) the digitisation of back copies of 'BIOS Reporter' had been completed, and, (ii) JBIOS 47 (2023) would be Edited by Andrew Hayden.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.

4.5.2 BIOS Reporter Editor's Report – Gordon Curtis's report was printed in the AGM booklet.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.

4.6 Meetings Officer: Richard Hobson's Report was printed in the AGM booklet. Because of the continuing restrictions caused by the pandemic no Meetings had taken place in 2021. Looking forward:

- '*Celestial Harmonists - Music and the Herschels*', Friday 30 September 2022 at (The Museum of Bath Architecture in Bath, Somerset (the former Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel),
- Research Conference at Barber Institute (February 2022) - The Barber Institute had major works planned for the Concert Hall and the venue would not be able to host as usual. Suggestions as to suitable venues would be welcome.
- The Meetings Officer was always interested in hearing from members who would like to arrange, or who have ideas, for a Day Conference.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.

4.7 Publicity: Christopher Gray's Report was printed in the AGM booklet.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.

4.8 Information Services: The Chairman's Report on the *British Organ Archive* ("BOA"), Mark Venning's Report on the National Pipe Organ Register ("NPOR"), Anne Page's Report on the *Historic Organs Sound Archive* ("HOSA"), John Norman's Report on the *BIOS Website* and Melanie Plumley's Report on social media were all printed in the AGM booklet. In discussion of these Reports, it was noted that:

- On the BOA, it was possible now to visit but numbers were restricted
- On the NPOR, the balance between submissions and completions was now under control. The new Website design had been launched in June 2022 although there were some minor technical details to be sorted out. An application to the Marsh Christian Trust had produced a donation of £200 and it appeared that the Trust might support ongoing costs. An unsolicited donation of £2k had been received from the George Cadbury Trust. Good progress was being made on updating the Directory of British Organ Builders.
- On HOSA, it was hoped that discussions might lead to some fresh recordings, initially in Dorset.
- On BIOS Website, Jim Berrow's book had been added to the Webstore, digitised back copies of the Reporter would be made available and there was a software problem with the 'Events' page which was being investigated.
- On social media, it was noted that our Twitter followers had grown to 742 and Facebook is followed by 1,876 people. Suitable material was invited for posting.

The Reports were accepted by the Meeting.

4.9 Casework Officer: Alan Thurlow & Melvin Hughes' Report was printed in the AGM booklet. On the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital Chapel, Margate it was understood the pipework may have been removed and clarification was being sought from the Conservation Officer of the local authority.

The Report was accepted by the Meeting.



4.10 Committee for the Listing of Historic Organs: John Rowntree's Report was printed in the AGM booklet. The Chairman noted that Council would be considering whether a scheme in parallel with the Listing scheme should be introduced for organs which were not suitable for listing but nevertheless held a strong cultural or historic claim to be awarded recognition.

The Report was accepted by the meeting

4.11 Historic Organs at Risk Register: Jonathan Goodchild's Report was printed in the AGM booklet.

The Report was accepted by the meeting.

4.12 Heritage Adviser: Jeffrey West's Report was printed in the AGM booklet. As an update it was noted that General Synod would be debating draft legislation in February 2023 following the consultation proposals, published in 2022, for the closure and disposal of Anglican churches no longer needed for worship published in 2022.

The Report was accepted by the meeting.

5. Elections

The following election of Officers and Ordinary Members of Council was set out in the Notice of the Meeting published in BIOS Reporter (February 2021): Chairman, Publications Officer and 2 Ordinary Members of Council.

Since only 1 nomination had been received for Secretary, 1 nomination for Treasurer, 1 nomination for Membership Secretary, one nomination for Meetings Officer and 3 nominations for Ordinary Members of the Council where there were 4 vacancies, then, in accordance with the Constitution, the following elections were made:

Secretary: Melvin Hughes (proposed by Alan Thurlow, seconded by William McVicker);

Treasurer: Adrian Mumford (proposed by Colin Menzies, seconded by Christopher Herrick);

Membership Secretary: David Shepherd (proposed by Richard Hobson, seconded by Simon Williams);

Meetings Officer: Richard Hobson (proposed by Simon Williams, seconded by Melvin Hughes);

Ordinary Members of Council:

- Colin Menzies (proposed by Alan Thurlow, seconded by Melvin Hughes);
- David Shuker (proposed by David Baker, seconded by Melvin Hughes);
- Jeffrey Williams (proposed by Alan Thurlow, seconded by Melvin Hughes).

6. Any Other Business

David Shuker had been contacted by BIOS Member Stephen Gilling who wanted to donate his collection of books and journals to be sold to raise funds for BIOS. These items have now been incorporated into the latest book 'Sign of the Pipe' book catalogue and they have been given a specific reference number (BIOSGXX) so that sales can be tracked and BIOS credited with the net proceeds.

7. Close

The meeting closed at 13.00

Signed

Alan Thurlow (Chairman)

[April] 2023



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