

# BFA AGM Minutes

## Zoom, 25th April 2021

### ATTENDED:

Alison Thorpe, Camilla Sim, Carole Ervine, Clare Myatt, Elizabeth Smith, Fiona Parr, Gordon Adam, Greg Madison, Harriet Brown, Helen Dillon, Helen Bower, Kay Hoffmann, Marion Stumpe, Peter Gill, Rob Foxcroft, Ruth Friedman, Suzi Mackenzie.

Plus, **WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS attending** - Andy Philpott, Amona Buechler, Greg Thomas & Srik Narayan.



**APOLOGIES:** Jane Stephens, Carolann Samuels, Amanda Raine, Ildiko Davies, Locana and Jerry Conway.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM:

### SOFA PERSONS' REPORT – Peter Gill and Kay Hoffmann.

GA: Ildiko mentioned adding **extra voluntary membership fee payment** to website but there was statement that this was no longer being an option. PG: Ildiko may not have been informed but this has now been rectified. Membership will stay at £40 as easier to administrate and extra money not needed, currently.

**Thanks** to the Sofa persons offered by several people.

### TREASURER'S REPORT – Camilla Sim.

GA: Is having **£5000 in each account** more or less than usual? CS: Events account is similar. Main account is less than normal as web money now spent. Account sheet has now been sent as previously only a balance sheet was emailed.

PG: raised issue of **honorariums**. CS: Was £500 given previously to newsletter a standard now there is no co-editor? Someone said yes. HB: At the last AGM most people, maybe all, were supportive of an honorarium offered more widely to ongoing key roles but it was decided to wait to see balance of books after voluntary higher fee. It turned out there was not sufficient funds for this. The voluntary extra payments for this purpose in 2020 resulted in PG, KH and SM being awarded honorariums of £83 each.

PG: Can we afford these honorariums this year? CS: Yes, as no major projects or outgoings this year, but would need fee increase after that. FP: Would **£500** be right for all jobs? CS: Treasurer is small job, and she would not want payment.

PG: **Webmaster** has always been paid an hourly rate, historically. GA raised how a sense of unfairness may arise from this.

General discussion about whether fee was per job or person... KM suggested **£250** per person, or £500 if a 2-person job as covered by one. CS & SJ: **Newsletter** is double job. HB: Perhaps best if this is discussed, not as a personal response, but as a **longer-term sustainable strategy** for ongoing roles. People could decline payment if they wished. GA: Yes, this may make the roles more attractive and sustainable.

**Proposal: All the following roles are offered £250: Membership sec x1; Sofa x 2; Newsletter x 2; Treasurer x1; Enquiry Admin x1. Up to individual if accepted.** (We would need to budget for 7x250= £1750 in future). **NO OBJECTIONS**

Harriet & HB: £150 offered as **contribution to costs for AGM to Sofa** who have no choice to attend (as discussed and delayed from the last AGM). KH: This needs to be kept as a separate discussion due to time limits. **Kay and Peter to take this forward on Gaggle**. GA: Shame as it was not decided 18 months ago either and not agreed. Important this issue does not drift.

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT – Suzi Mackenzie. GA:

?: Is membership growth higher than usual? SM: Maybe, but 18-month period is longer.

PG: Thanks to Suzi. HB: Impressed by new membership and payment process. Look professional and labour saving.

#### **NEWSLETTER REPORT** – Gordon Adam:

GA: For sustainability, more people need to be involved. Suggested new appeal for **advisory panel** – not necessarily for editing but just for ideas to bounce off. PG: yes, we will encourage that.

Several people expressed appreciations. AB: extremely impressed with attention to quality. PG: Goes way beyond BFA. Readership 850, mainly in US.

#### **WEBSITE REPORT** – Ildiko Davis. Unable to attend.

GA: Impressed by detail and Ildiko being on the ball - being proactive with details and answers. CM: Echoed and wanted thanks to be minuted. PG agreed. Many nods.

AB: Are we discussing **text changes about training wording** and deadline for this? KH: Best to keep this to Gaggle as this discussion is working well.

SM mentioned **5 issues to consider on Ildiko's report**. One was order profiles are displayed.

KH: Suggested this was **discussed through Gaggle**. PG: **Sofa will contact Ildiko to see how this is taken forward**. AB: Is it easy to have drop down menu to select search criteria for searching for a teacher? PG: Might be possible and this will be discussed with Ildiko.

PG: **Website text** is a hotchpotch written by different people – not written as a unified piece. Glad that people spot where it does not make sense and addressed.

#### **ADMIN REPORT** – Clare Myatt.

CM mentioned appreciation of support from Suzi and Sofa. PG: Thank you for fielding enquiries.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

KH: Delighted that **no officers plan to stand down**. PG: KH and PG agreed to carry on at least until November. SM: Happy for another year. CS: Would be pleased if someone wants to take over but okay to continue for now. CM: Happy for another year.

GA: Is there is an **AGM at the November gathering?** KH: Not necessarily, but we can call a meeting for specific issues if needed. KH: Reminder that we can also agree decisions on Gaggle.

SJ: Wondering about the best way to **find new sofa people** as there are issues filling the role. Maybe there is a way to sell and promote the role in advance. PG: Next step would be for Kay and I to feel into it. Yes, good to know in advance.

### **DATE OF 2022 GATHERING AGM:**

**In-person gathering booked for November 25-28<sup>th</sup>.** Lower Shaw Farm near Swindon. Will send booking forms nearer the time, assuming no issues with COVID etc. GA suggested there will just a gathering in Nov and go back to AGM following November. PG: Also okay to have AGM every 18 months.

SM: Prefer for AGM to be spaced from Summer Camp - in person in April

GA: These months are still quite far from August. PG: No guarantee on exact dates as dependent on availability of venues.

KH: Called for **show of hands in preference for April or November 2022** for an in-person gathering. **More thumbs up for April but can remain open to further discussion.**

RF: How about one in-person and one on-line event. PG: We can put that in the pot for later discussion.

### **AOB:**

GA: Is BFA going to continue with Zoom meetups? HK: Yes, definitely.

KH & PG: Thanks to all.

'Thanks' returned by many present.