



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Radisson Blu Heathrow on Friday 3 July 2015

These Minutes should be read in conjunction with the Conference Documents 2015. They follow the RA AGM Agenda 2015 and the notice sent out to all LRAs and CRAs on 16 July 2015. There were 55 Member in attendance including 7 Board Members and 8 Life Members.

1. In the Chair Ian Campbell

The Chairman Ian Campbell opened the meeting by officially welcoming all delegates. He asked for approval by the delegates to allow non members from First Media and Lynn Harris our office administrator to be attendance at the meeting and for the meeting to receive a presentation on the new membership data base by Tim Wilson from our providers Participant prior to the AGM. All Delegates were in agreement

2. An overview of the new RA membership system that had been developed was delivered by Tim Wilson. The new system will allow individual members to join the RA as Central Members or join an LRA of their choice. Both the individual referee and LRA will receive confirmation of joining. LRAs will be able to register members on line as they can at present. Both LRAs and individuals will have the opportunity to pay by credit or debit card. This will save the expense to the RA both locally and nationally of processing cheque payments. CRA's will also have access to the system to view members within their County. Full guidance will be issued when the system is released later this month. John Wilson is the Board Member responsible for implementation of this system. Tim Wilson answered some questions on the system before Ian Campbell asked delegates to save any more questions until after they had received the guidance Ian Campbell then thanked Tim for his presentation and the work he had done for the Association.

3. Announcements

A number of apologies for absence and good wishes for a successful AGM had been received and were recorded at the RA Office.

4. Conduct of Annual General Meeting

The Standing Order for Debate contained with the Constitution were unanimously agreed.

5. Obituaries

The deaths of 11 members had been notified during the past year. Particular reference was made of Joel Richards from the West Bromwich LRA who was killed in the Tunisian Terrorist Attack on 26 June 2015.

The delegates stood as a mark of respect to their late colleagues:

George Cook (Cramlington Life Member), Graham Boothman (Burnley Life Member), Gareth Dixon (Bootle), Peter Stacey (Croydon), Roger Dunning (Croydon), Pat Gwynn (Leamington), Gerald Whitfield (Cambridge), Keith Ellmes (Lincoln), Kenneth Cartwright (Nuneaton), Ron Edwards (Southend), Roy Holdridge (Doncaster), and Joel Richards (West Bromwich)

6. The Minutes of the 2014 RA AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Friday 11 July 2014 at Hinckley were approved.

7. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

8. RA Chairman's Annual Report 2014-2015

The Chairman presented the Report on page 5 of the Conference Documents 2015 already circulated. He made reference to the changes in chairmanship during the past 12 months
The Chairman's Report for 2014-2015 was approved.

9. RA Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2014-2015

The Treasurers Report was printed on pages 9-19 of the Conference Documents 2015 was approved by with 5 members voting against

10. Written Questions had been received from

The Norwich LRA which were answered by the Board

South Wilts LRA which were answered by the Board

Paul Field undertook to explain in newsletter the profits from the sale of the offices following several questions on this subject. It was agreed that as the accounts had been prepared by our Accountants that they should be in attendance at future AGMs. The Board undertook to present more easily readable accounts next year

11. Appointment of Accountants for 2015-2016

The Board proposed that Walker Thompson of Coventry continue as our accountants This was approved unanimously.

12. Report from Select Committee on Board Expenditure

This was a new role following the adoption of the New Constitution last year. No volunteers had come forward and a request will be included in a future newsletter.

13. Report and Accounts of the RA Benevolent Fund 2014-2015

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Fund were printed on pages 20-22 of the Conference Documents 2015. In the absence of the Chairman of the trustees the accounts were received by the delegates

Robin Machell, from the Horsham LRA requested a list of donations to the Benevolent Fund he was supported by Neil Jones from West Devon. On behalf of the Board Eddie McGrath undertook to provide a list in a future edition of the Newsletter.

14. Notice of Awards

There were no Life Membership Awards this year. There were three LMSA Awards. Bill Carter of Sedgfield LRA and Garrahm Rosam from Gloucester LRA were not able to be present. Paul Salisbury from the Rugby LRA was present and received his award from the Chairman.

15. Open Forum

Members were able to raise a large number of questions which the Board attempted to answer. The Chairman encouraged members to keep in regular touch with the Board and not wait until the AGM to raise their concerns on their Association

16. 3 Year Plan & RA-FA working group

Paul Field on behalf of the Board delivered the vision of the Board in its three year plan. Paul was disappointed that only 7 LRAs had requested sight of the plan. The plan was generally welcomed by the delegates as a positive step forward, with questions from the delegates seeking clarification of various aspects. One particular output of the working group was the FA offering 4 CPD events for LRA's, David Crick the RA representative to the FA added that this is a great opportunity for LRA's to engage with non-members and to grasp the proposal. The Board will now refine the plan and circulate it to all LRAs and CRAs

17. Close of Business

The Chairman closed the formal business of the meeting at 5.55pm.