

11 May 2015

British Humanist Association
39, Moreland Street
London EC1V 8BB
020 7079 3060
chiefexec@humanism.org.uk

To all members of the British Humanist Association

Dear Member,

British Humanist Association Annual General Meeting
Saturday 11 July 2015 10.30-17.15
Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH, United Kingdom

These papers contain the agenda for this year's AGM, the formal notice of the AGM, and the minutes of last year's AGM. Please bring them with you to the AGM. Our current Articles of Association and Byelaws will be available on arrival and can be downloaded from the BHA website at www.humanism.org.uk/members.

Registration for the formal AGM will begin at 1pm. Members are asked to be in their seats by 13.40 for a performance by the BHA choir. Tea and coffee will be available from 13.00, but lunch is not provided.

There will be three forums in the morning, where staff will report to members on recent activities and members will have an opportunity to discuss that work in greater detail than is possible in the AGM proper. We are also pleased to announce that BHA President **Jim Al-Khalili** will address members after the AGM, and the Trustees invite members attending the AGM to stay on for a glass of wine or a soft drink.

So, the full programme for the day will be as follows:

10.30 – 11.15	Ceremonies Forum led by Isabel Russo, Head of Ceremonies
11.20 – 12.05	Public Affairs Forum led by Pavan Dhaliwal, Director of Public Affairs and Campaigns
12.05 – 13.00	Education Forum led by Lisa Rønsholt, Head of Education
13.40 – 14.00	BHA Choir entertains
14.00 – 14.30	Report and Questions with Andrew Copson, Chief Executive
14.30 – 16.00	AGM (registration from 13.00)
16.00 – 16.30	Address by BHA President Jim Al-Khalili
16.30 – 17.15	A glass of wine (or soft drink) with the Trustees

2014 Report and Accounts

The 2014 Report and Accounts are available online at www.humanism.org.uk/members. A copy is also available for inspection at the BHA office and copies will be available at the AGM. You can request a paper copy in advance of the AGM by emailing, telephoning or writing to us.

In order to ensure that members who have questions concerning the accounts can have them answered without taking up too much time at the AGM, the Board will take written questions on the

accounts in advance of the AGM and provide written answers to members attending the meeting. If you have any questions on the accounts, please submit them by email or post by **17.00 on 26 June 2015**.

Resolutions and Motions

As part of the formal business of the AGM, the members will be asked to consider and pass the resolutions which are set out in the notice of the AGM. The resolutions are: to receive the BHA's report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014; the re-appointment of the auditor; and to authorise the trustees to determine their remuneration.

Any **Emergency Motions** (i.e. motions relating to matters of importance to the BHA that have arisen after the closing date for ordinary resolutions of **1 May 2015**) must be submitted to me or to the Chair before the start of the AGM. Emergency Motions may be proposed by Partner groups of the BHA or individual members and must also be seconded. It should be noted that any motions proposed are not resolutions of the BHA in law but only express the opinion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at the AGM. **Apologies for absence** can be made by email, post or telephone.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Copson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew Copson
Company Secretary, British Humanist Association

British Humanist Association
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 11 July 2015 14.30 (registration from 13.00)
Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH, United Kingdom

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
which are given in the BHA's Byelaws
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Election of one Timekeeper and two Tellers
5. Minutes of the 2014 AGM
which are attached to this agenda
6. Matters arising from those minutes
which are not covered separately on this agenda
7. Chair's address
8. Announcement of the results of the elections to the Board of Trustees
9. Formal part of the Business of the AGM as set out in the attached Notice
10. Emergency Motions
which must relate directly to core areas of BHA's operation or existence, and be related to issues which have newly arisen since 1 May 2015, and must be presented to the Chair or Company Secretary before the start of the meeting
11. Any other business
which must be notified to the Company Secretary in advance of the AGM

Company Secretary
11 May 2015

British Humanist Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 19 July 2014, 14.30 – 16.00 at Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

Present: Asad Abbas, Catherine Abrey, John Adams, Mike Adams, Deborah Ainger, Ray Alcock, Robert Ashby, Charles Baily, Tom Beaton, Samuel Becker, Michelle Beckett, John Blakey, Rhian Blakey, Dermot Bolton, David Bothwell, Alan Brownjohn, Nicholas Burns, Neil Camp, Barbara Chandler, Donald Clarke, Les Collins, Bronwen Davies, Clare Delderfield, Stells Dessoy, Steve Dolan, Blaise Egan, Zoe Fairbairns, Charles Franklyn, Cathryn Fraser, Alice Fuller, Edward Gascoigne, Lyn Glass, Brian Goredema-Braid, Neville Grant, Anna Gray, Mary Grove, Bernard Halter, John Hanger, Roy Heaps, Alan Henness, Nicholas Hollinghurst, Russell Holt, Willemien Hoogendoorn, Tony Howard, Nicola Jackson, Diana Jones, Toby Keynes, Audrey King, Roger Knight, Adam Knowles, Josh Kutchinsky, Maureen Kvebekk, Terry Lilley, Maria MacLachlan, Derek Marcus, Marilyn Mason, Robert Mill, Leslie Milne, John Moore, Peter Morgan, Daniel Nabarro, Len Newton, Marie Oatham, Ronald Oatham, Steve O'Kane, Rory O'Kelly, Alan Palmer, Helen Palmer, Paula Palmer, Iain Paterson, Rafael Pepiol, Naomi Phillips, Mike Pictor, David Pollock, Mary Porter, Alison Redcastle, David Redcastle, Michael Rickwood, Jeremy Rodell, Patricia Rogers, Seoirse Ropaigealach, Alom Shaha, David Simmonds, Barbara Smoker, Joe Stacey, Alison Stein, Richard Stein, Ian Symons, Darrell Thomas, Anthony Thorne, Frances Thorpe, Brian Tolman, Bryan Tully, Richard Unwin, Jessica Vautier, Philip Veasey, Carmen-Lydia Vernet, Philip Vince, Lucy Wainwright, Phil Walder, Ray Ward, David Warden, Mark Wardrop, Jerry Weber, Karen Weber, John White, Ray White, Tony Wild.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson, Pavan Dhaliwal, Jessica Layfield, Catriona McLellan, Blakeley Nixon, Iyabo Ojo, Sara Passmore, Isabel Russo, Richy Thompson, Andrew West, Liam Whitton.

Apologies for Absence: Abe Alpren, Peter Bagshaw, Barbara Burfoot, Chris Butterworth, John Catt, Sophie Catt, Amal Chaudhuri, Chris Chessum, Julia Copson, Tom Copley, Maureen Duffy, Leslie Geach, John Gregory, Marion Gregory, Rosemary Hanbury Brown, Lyndon Harrison, Dianne Hayter, Ramon Henson, Wendy Hill, Irene Jackson, Jack Jeffery, Billy Jenkins, William Knight, Warren Lakin, Barry Latchford, Elaine Lever, Fanny Lines, Ken Loach, Tag McEntegart, Raymond Mellor, Richard Norman, Guy Otten, Richard Paterson, Elio Pennisi, Joe Platts, Maggie Platts, Sue Polydorou, Edward Presswood, Susan Rankin, John Ricketts, Martin Rowson, Nick Senior, Rosemary Somers, Tony Somers, Chris Smith, Ariadne Tampion, Mary Walker, Michael Watson, Janet Williams, David Wright, Jane Wynne Willson.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked members for attending.

Adoption of Standing Orders: On the proposal of Robert Ashby (Chair of the Board of Trustees and the AGM), the Standing Orders were adopted by the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: The Chair reminded those present that members speaking should declare any potential conflict of interest in relation to any item.

Appointment of tellers: Alice Fuller and Alan Palmer were appointed as tellers.

Appointment of timekeeper: The Chair informed the meeting that this was not required.

Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 13 July 2013: Iain Paterson requested that his attendance be recorded. On the proposal of the Board, the minutes were approved *nem con* with this change.

Matters arising from the previous minutes: There were no matters arising.

Chair's address: The Chair reported on the past year's activities, thanking the Chief Executive and the BHA for the many successes. In particular, the Chair reported on the work the Board of Trustees has been doing to oversee the strong governance of the organisation. The Chair thanked the staff, trustees, and volunteers for their dedication and hard work, in particular the Vice Chair and Treasurer, and the volunteers on the BHA Development Board, who have been working hard to fundraise for the World Humanist Congress. The Chair reported on the ongoing organisation of the World Humanist Congress, which has taken a huge amount of staff and volunteer time. The Chair noted the campaigns successes of the year, which have been significant and have helped to raise the BHA's public profile.

Election to the Board of Trustees: An election of trustees was reported. In a postal ballot in which 2007 valid votes were cast, the following candidates were elected (in order of election): PHILLIPS, Naomi; BECKETT, Michelle; ROGERS, Patricia; RODELL, Jeremy. Thanks were expressed by all present to all candidates who stood. Thanks were expressed by the Chair to Blaise Egan and David Savage, both of whom were leaving the Board this year, and to John Woolhouse, who stepped down as Treasurer in November 2013.

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2013: John Adams (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. He drew attention to the much improved financial situation in 2013, in which the BHA reported a surplus. The Treasurer thanked the previous Treasurer, John Woolhouse, and the Board for overseeing these improvements, and thanked the management for proposing and implementing such difficult budgetary restrictions while continuing to operate to a very high standard. The Report and Accounts for 2013 were accepted *nem con*.

Re-appointment of Auditor: The firm of Knox Cropper was reappointed as auditor *nem con*.

Remuneration of Auditor: The trustees were authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditor *nem con*.

Motions received: The following motion was proposed by Tony Wild, representing the North East Humanists, and seconded by Leslie Milne:

The British Humanist Association believes that society has a moral responsibility to look after the welfare of those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves disadvantaged and in need of the assistance of the state. It further believes that the current programme of financial austerity, with its cuts to welfare spending, is having a disproportionate effect on the nation's poor, who are now bearing the main burden of the attempt to reduce the economic deficit. It, therefore, encourages all humanists to support campaigns that oppose policies and practices which make the poorest, and least physically and psychologically able, pay to solve an economic problem which is not of their making.

The Board of Trustees proposed the following amendment to the motion on the grounds that the procedure for making BHA policy includes consultation with partner groups and full discussion at the Trustees' annual policy meeting:

In the first line of the motion above, replace 'The British Humanist Association' with 'This meeting'.

Tony Wild accepted the amendment and the meeting voted in favour of it: 92 voted in favour and 2 voted against, with 13 abstentions.

Following a debate, the motion was put to the vote and was not carried: 31 voted in favour and 50 voted against, with 26 abstentions.

Emergency Motions: No motions had been received.

Any other Business: There was none.

BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
(the 'BHA')
Company Number: 228781

Notice of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the BHA will be held at **Bishopsgate Institute** on 11 July 2015 at 14.30 to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions:

As Ordinary Resolutions:

1. To receive the BHA's annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014.
2. To re-appoint Knox Cropper as auditor to the BHA to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting of the BHA where accounts are laid before the members.
3. To authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Date: 11 May 2015

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:
39 Moreland Street
London
EC1V 8BB



COMPANY SECRETARY

Notes:

1. A member entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend, speak and vote in his or her place on a show of hands or on a poll provided. Such proxy need not be a member of the BHA.
2. To be valid, the completed and signed form of proxy must be returned to the BHA's registered office no later than 14.30 on 9 July 2015. Lodging a form of proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting at the meeting.
3. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of the BHA at 17.00 on 10 July 2015 and have no monies owing to the BHA.

BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
(the 'BHA')
Form of Proxy

I, _____ of _____ being a member of the BHA hereby appoint the Chairman of the meeting or _____ of _____ as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf, as indicated below, at the Annual General Meeting of the BHA to be held on 11 July 2015 and at any adjournment thereof.

Resolution	Resolution Summary	For	Against	Discretionary	Vote Withheld
1	Receive annual report and accounts for 31 December 2014				
2	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as auditor				
3	Authorise the trustees to determine the auditor's remuneration				

Please indicate with an 'X' in the space above how you wish your votes to be cast.

Signed this _____ day of _____ 2015

.....
Signature

Explanatory Notes:

1. Every member has the right to appoint some other person of his or her choice, who need not be a member, as his or her proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights, to attend, speak and vote on his or her behalf at the meeting. To appoint a person other than the Chairman please insert the name and address of your chosen proxy in the space provided.
2. To be valid this form of proxy must be signed by the member or his or her attorney and be sent to the BHA's registered office (39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB) no later than 14.30 on 09 July 2015. Any Power of Attorney or any other authority under which the proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form.
3. The 'Vote Withheld' box is provided to enable you to abstain on the resolution. However, it should be noted that a vote withheld is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of votes 'for' and 'against' a resolution.
4. If you do not indicate as to how your proxy should vote or you tick the discretion box, your proxy will have discretion to vote on the resolution as they see fit. Your proxy will also have the discretion to vote as they see fit on any other business which may properly come before the meeting, including amendments to the resolution, and at any adjournment of the meeting.
5. The completion and return of this form will not preclude a member from attending the meeting and voting in person.
6. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of the BHA at 17.00 on 10 July 2015 and have no monies owing to the BHA.