

British Humanist Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 23 July 2011, 14.00 – 16.00 at The Building Centre, Store Street, London WC1

Present: Asad Abbas, Mike Adams, Deborah Ainger, Robert Ashby, Zelda Bailey, Dom Blacklock, Alan Blood, Malcolm Booker, Rene Branton, David Brittain, Linda Brittain, Nick Carter, John Catt, John Chadwick, Tony Charlesworth, David Childs, Steve Clapman, Donald Clarke, Julie Crow, Christopher Davies, Eric Deakins, Stephen Dunkling, Peter Edmead, Blaise Egan, Lucy Ferman-Moore, Mica Fidler, David Flint, Alan Foreman, Stephen Giles Frankiss, Cathryn Fraser, Alice Fuller, Lisa Garbett, Anna Gray, Nicolas Haran, Evan Harris, Alan Henness, Grant Higginson, Elizabeth Hillman, Harold Hillman, Ann Hunter, Ruth Hunter, Michael Imison, George Jelliss, Toby Keynes, James Kindell, Audrey King, Paul Kitchener, Joshua Kutchinsky, Martin Lake, Fanny Lines, Andrea Lorenz, Maria MacLachlan, Geraldine Maclaine, Derek Marcus, Alan Marsh, Marilyn Mason, David McKnight, Trevor Moore, Rohan Moorthy, Peter Morgan, Brenda Morley, Nayyar Naqvi, Steve Nesbitt, Richard Norman, Marie Oatham, Ronald Oatham, R O'Kelly, Alan Palmer, Iain Paterson, Margaret Penrose, Rafael Pepiol, Mike Pictor, David Pollock, Mary Porter, John Rayner, Martin John Ricketts, Jeremy Rodell, Patricia Rogers, Mike Savage, Christine Seymour, Richard Sheahan, David Simmonds, Chris Smith, Richard Stein, Alison Stein, Richard Stewart, Anna Stone, Ariadne Tampion, Darrell Thomas, William Thomas, Marco Tranchino, Anthony Van der Elst, Philip Veasey, Carmen-Lydia Vernet, Philip Vince, Phil Walder, Ray Ward, Mark Wardrop, Raymond White, David Williams, Jenny Woods, Derek Woodvine, Royston Woodward, Carol Woolley, David Wright, Jake Wright, Jane Wynne Willson, John Woolhouse.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson, Bernard Halter, Blakeley Nixon, Sara Passmore, Naomi Philips, Cynthia Scott-Clark, Ben Siegle, Richy Thompson, Andrew West.

Apologies for Absences: Abe Alpren, Michael Ayris, P Bagshaw, David Ball, David Ballard, Alan Bartlett, Barrie Berkley, Jean Berkley, Chris Bourne, Andrew Brittain, George Broadhead, Diana Brooke, Barbara Burfoot, Bob Churchill, Denis Cobell, Peter Cockman, Neil Collie, M L Cooper, Julia Copson, R Craxton, Maureen and Gordon Cunningham, Keith Day, Deborah Densham, Elizabeth Donnelly, John Dowdle, Baroness Flather, Alicia Fourie, Isa Mary Fox, Roy Francis, Barry Gardiner MP, Leslie Geach, Lyn Glass, David Goodes, John S Grainger, R L Grandison, Anthony Green, Claudia Harry, J L Haynes, David Hill, Martin Hooper, Helen Horsler, G R Inman, Irene Jackson, Billy Jenkins, Gordon King, Clifford Kinvig, T G Laidler, Warren Lakin, David Lambourn, Gerry Lewis, Colin Marriott, Ivan Martin, David McBeth, Patricia McBeth, Fokkina McDonnell, Peter Merrington, Hayward Lynn Millard, Gordon Moorhouse, Mary North, David Oliver, Lord O'Neill, Anne Orchard, Jocelyn Ounsted, David Pack, Elio Pennisi, Dee Phillips, Kenneith Poole, Michael Rainey, Susan Rankin, Julian Rushton, David Savage, Donald Sharpe, G R Sheasby, Rosemary Somers, Eleanor Steiner, Harry Stopes-Roe, Graham Surman, Leslie Taylor Harrington, Baroness Thornton, Julia Tickridge, Patricia Tricker, Keith Vickerman, David Watkins, Mary Walker, Lord Wedderburn, M Whincup, Christine Williamson, Donald Williamson, J F Winfield.

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.

Minutes of the AGM of Saturday 17 July 2010: On the proposal of Joshua Kutchinsky, seconded by David Pollock, the minutes were approved *nem con*. There were no matters arising.

Chair's address: The chair reported on the past year's activities, highlighting the BHA's many successes and the hard work ahead.

Election to the Board of Trustees: The results of the election of trustees were announced. There were five candidates for four vacancies. The total number of eligible voters was 9421. The total number of valid votes cast was 2533. Blaise Egan, Patricia Rogers, David Savage, and John Woolhouse were all elected to the Board.

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2010: John Woolhouse (Treasurer) presented key figures from the annual accounts. On a proposal from the Chair, the report and accounts for 2010 were accepted *nem con*.

Re-appointment of Auditor: On a proposal of David Pollock, seconded by Blaise Egan, Knox Cropper were reappointed as auditor.

Remuneration of Auditor: On a proposal of David Pollock, seconded by Blaise Egan, the trustees were authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Special Resolution: The proposal to amend the Articles of Association was considered by the meeting. A minority of members present raised concern about the provisions in the new Articles of Association regarding the minimum number of trustees and the quorum for holding trustee meetings, when only the minimum number of trustees were appointed. The trustees agreed to investigate the matter and report back to the members.

On a proposal of Richard Stein, seconded by Joshua Kutchinsky, the special resolution was put to the vote and on a show of hands, 100 voted for and 4 voted against with no abstentions, it was resolved as a special resolution:

‘that the Articles of Association as set out in the form produced to the meeting and signed by the Chairman for the purposes of identification be adopted as the Articles of Association of the BHA in substitution for and to the exclusion of the existing Articles of Association of the BHA as deemed to be altered by Section 28 of the Companies Act 2006.’

Emergency Motions: No motions had been received.

Any other Business: There was none.