

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
BRITISH & FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY HELD AT THE NUT  
HEADQUARTERS, HAMILTON HOUSE, MABLEDON PLACE,  
LONDON WC1H 9BD AT 1.45PM ON FRIDAY 23 MAY 2014**

Present:

Rt Hon David Lammy MP (President)  
Professor Richard Aldrich (Vice-President)  
Professor S R Hodgkinson (Chair)  
Rev D F Tennant (Vice-Chair)  
Mr S J King (Treasurer)

Mr J Bell	Ms M Patel
Mrs P Bowers	Dr B Ramm
Mrs E Charlesworth	Mr T Ransome
Mr V Craggs	Rev G E H Roper
Ms C A Emmet	Mr S A Ross
Mrs F Dodwell	Dr J Saggu
Mrs P Frankl	Ms R Stephens
Ms M Francois	Mr D Swain
Mrs A Hillyard	Mr I Thomas
Mrs D Hoy	Prof L Thomas
Mr D R Hoyle	Dr E J Tomlinson
Mr J Kidd	Dr I Turner
Mr G T Kingsley	Dr E I Waitt
Ms S Lane Cawte	Ms E J Weale
Mr P E Miller	Mr S J Wordsworth
Rev Prof S C Orchard	Mr B A York
Prof J Palmer-Cooper	

In Attendance: Mrs I Wilde (Secretary) BFSS  
Mr R J Goatcher (Finance Manager) BFSS  
Mrs B R Lawrance (Administrator), BFSS  
Mr R Wilkins, Chantrey Vellacott DFK

Convening Notice: The Secretary read the Convening Notice at the request of the President.

Welcome: The President welcomed all those present including Mr Richard Willis from the auditors, Chantrey Vellacott DFK.

Prayer: The Reverend David Tennant, Vice-Chair, led the meeting in prayer.

**AGM14/01**

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Dr Hazel Bagworth-Mann, Mr Ayodele Bandele, Mr Raymond Beven, Rev Inderjit Bhogal, Mrs Jean Bingham, Mr Peter Bond, Ms Lynne Broadbent, Dr Geoffrey Chorley, Mr Charles Crawford, Mr Robert Dimsdale, Mrs Pamela

Draycott, Mr Raymond Elson, Mr Arthur Giles, Mr Roger Howarth, Ms Sandra Lawman, Mrs Yvonne Limbrick, Ms Ijeoma Okoli, Mrs Meg Reed, Mr Malcolm Ridge, Mrs Margaret Rollason, Bishop Mano Rimalshah, Mr David Stephens, Mr Tony Stevens, Rev John Sutcliffe, Mrs Joyce Taylor, Miss Gillian Wood and Ms Claire Yardley.

**AGM14/02**

**Minutes of the AGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

The Minutes were approved and the record signed.

**AGM14/03**

**Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**AGM14/04**

**Annual Report 2013**

The Director gave a presentation focusing on achievements and developments during 2013. She started by thanking the President and the Vice-President for the active interest they took in the Society's affairs and she thanked all Council Members.

She said that 2013 had been another busy and successful year:

- The investment performance had been excellent.
- A wide range of grants had been approved in 21 countries.
- Grants management had been streamlined through the integrated online system.
- The first ever Grants Workshop had been held in October 2013, receiving very positive feedback.
- The future of the Archive had been secured by gifting it with appropriate safeguards to Brunel University
- Progress had been made with work on updating the Charter and Statutes, proposals for which would be brought forward to the General Meeting following the AGM. This was the last stage of the programme of reform instigated in 2009.
- The communications strategy had been translated into action with publications in print and online, news items on the website and use of social media.

She outlined the agreed strategic priorities as follows:

- Building capacity in terms of increasing BFSS's own knowledge and expertise, sharing good practice for the benefit of grant applicants/recipients and helping to build sustainability within communities eg by requiring that any new schools and libraries were open to the community out of hours.
- Developing relations with "associates" ie strengthening links with grant recipients with a solid track record of delivery.
- Optimising BFSS's impact, ensuring that the Society's grants made as much difference as possible in terms of both access to education and impact on learning performance. In this respect Trustees had been following the work of a UNESCO

task force on how to define and measure learning across a whole range of fields including physical wellbeing, culture and the arts as well as literacy and numeracy etc.

- Improving communications in order to raise awareness of BFSS's work and generate more applications of a high calibre.
- Succession planning in respect of both Trustees and staff.
- Governance reform.

She then turned to BFSS's core business, namely grant giving. Grants of £471,00 had been awarded from the Main Fund by (or, in the case of grants of £20,000 or over, on the recommendation of) the Grants Committee chaired by Dr Ben Ramm. The Committee met quarterly and normally met around four sets of applicants in the morning immediately prior to the meeting. A better geographical balance had been achieved in 2013. The proportion of grants for projects in East Africa had gone down from nearly 50% in 2012 to 32% in 2013 with more funding going to other parts of Africa and Southern Asia. It was hoped that a higher proportion than previously would go in future to projects in the UK and South America. Of particular interest were the grants given for projects in Burkina Faso, the 3<sup>rd</sup> poorest country in the world and the country with the lowest level of literacy, and the DRC which was emerging from many years of conflict. She showed some slides of projects supported by BFSS in 2013 in Uganda, Bangladesh, the DRC, Kenya and Nepal.

She then reported on the Grants Workshop held in October 2013 and attended by some 30 grant recipients as well as Trustees and the President. The aims were to share good practice, learn from experience and facilitate networking. There had been a combination of formal presentations, panel sessions and discussion groups. Feedback had been very positive, with strong support for a longer event next time.

Moving on to the Archive, she said that in December 2013 a deed of gift had been signed, gifting the Archive to the University with appropriate safeguards. This was the culmination of work by the Heritage and Archive Advisory Group chaired by Mr Brian York.

She then outlined the future workplan for 2014, which included a review of the grants strategy in July, another, longer, Grants Workshop in the autumn and a Strategy Day in November. Work was currently being undertaken to assess the impact of the Society's grant giving and draw lessons for the future. Depending on the outcome of the General Meeting, governance reform would be implemented. Finally, social media would continue to be exploited.

Finally, she thanked the Finance Manager, Richard Goatcher, and the Administrator, Belinda Lawrance, and she encouraged all those present to follow the Society's activities on the website [www.bfss.org.uk](http://www.bfss.org.uk) and on Twitter @BFSSCharity.

There being no questions, the President thanked the Director for her report.

## **AGM14/05**

### **2013 Audited Accounts**

The Treasurer gave a brief report on the Accounts. The audit report had been an unqualified one.

He reported that the Society was in a healthy financial position. Total income had increased from £604,000 to £642,000. Total outgoings amounted to £658,000. Overall there was a small deficit of just over £15,000 on the year, which had been met from capital. There was nothing to stop the Society from dipping into its capital if it wished.

Turning to the Society's investments, he said that at the end of 2013 the investment portfolio stood at £21.3m, which represented an actual total return for the year of 19%. The funds, the majority of which were unrestricted, were managed by Investec. He showed some slides one of which illustrated how the portfolio was performing closely in line with the customised benchmark.

In conclusion, therefore, he said that the Society continued to be in a sound financial position.

There being no questions, the President told the meeting that the Accounts had been approved by the Council and were recommended for adoption. The meeting approved their adoption unanimously.

## **AGM 14/06**

### **Tributes**

Professor Hodkinson, having introduced the Councillors who were elected in May 2013 (Ms Caroline Emmet, Mr Steve King, Mr Peter Miller and Mr Stephen Wordsworth), then thanked the three retiring Councillors, Rev Professor Stephen Orchard, Ms Shubhi Rao and Mr David Zahn.

He noted that Rev Prof Stephen Orchard had given many years' service to the BFSS. He had been co-opted on to the Council in 1986 and had been Chair from 1996-2007 after which he had continued as a Councillor. In 2008 he gave the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture. Professor Hodkinson commented that, beneath his quiet, modest leadership style, there lay a steely commitment to the objects of the Society, characteristic of the early pioneers in the Society.

He thanked Ms Shubhi Rao and Mr David Zahn for their contribution in particular to the Investments Committee.

**Appointments**

President

Rt Hon David Lammy MP, having indicated his willingness to continue as President, was re-elected with acclamation.

Vice-President

Professor Richard Aldrich, having indicated his willingness to continue as Vice-President, was re-elected with acclamation.

Chair

Professor Steve Hodgkinson, having been proposed by Ms Caroline Emmet and seconded by Mr David Swain, was confirmed as Chair for the second year of his three year term.

Treasurer

Mr Steve King, having been proposed by Mr Stephen Ross and seconded by Mr Stephen Wordsworth, was confirmed as Treasurer for the second year of his three year term

Auditors

Mr Steve King proposed and Mr David Swain seconded the re-appointment of Chantrey Vellacott DFK as the Society's Auditors. This was agreed by an overwhelming majority.

Members of Council

The recommendation that the maximum number of Councillors should be reduced to 15 was approved.

The Director read the names of the retiring Members of Council who had confirmed that they were willing to stand for re-election and who had been nominated by the Council for re-election:

- Mr Graham Kingsley
- Dr Jaz Saggu
- Dr Emily Tomlinson

The President declared that, since all had been recommended by the Council, all were elected.

**Street Kids International UK**

The President introduced Ms Philippa Frankl, Executive Director of Street Kids International UK, to give a presentation on a project supported by BFSS in Brazil.

Ms Frankl said that Street Kids International partners with youth-serving organisations in the developing world to deliver participatory business training to street-connected youth in their communities. It uses games, animations, observations and discussions to equip street youth with the skills, knowledge and opportunities to start and expand small businesses, find employment or return to education. The training programmes are specifically designed to meet the needs of those young people who have had little opportunity to attend formal school or who have had a negative experience in school.

Street Kids' Train the Trainer model supports local youth workers to deliver training to marginalised young people in their communities. Training local youth workers creates a multiplier effect and means that young people continue to benefit from Street Kids training long after the charity's direct involvement has ended. A number of particularly strong youth workers are selected and coached to become Master Trainers, training more youth workers, thereby creating a double multiplier effect.

Turning to the context, she said that in Brazil up to 1million children and young people are forced to live and work on the street. These youth have low educational levels and are often living in extreme poverty; many experience extreme violence and are exposed to drug trafficking and prostitution as their most viable ways of earning a living. In Mangeurinha, the favela of Duque de Caxias where Street Kids' local partner is based, only 20% of local residents have completed high school. This lack of education is a key factor in the 55% local unemployment rate, as a high school certificate is required to enter government sponsored internship and work schemes. Access to training opportunities is needed in order to reduce chronic unemployment and address the widening gap between rich and poor. Terra dos Homens, Street Kids' local partner, has been working with children in street situations and in shelters and has been promoting community-based actions for over 20 years.

Ms Frankl said that BFSS had provided a grant of £15,000 for Street Kids International to expand its programme in Duque de Caxias, with match funds contributed by Vitol Foundation. Street Kids had delivered a 13-day Training of Trainers workshop on its Street Business Toolkit to ten local youth workers from eight local NGOs. The workshop trained them in the business content and participatory facilitation skills needed to deliver the Street Business Toolkit to youth in their own organisations. During the process 27 young people received the Street Business training and all were supported to develop their own business plans.

For the remainder of the project period, the trained youth workers will each train groups of youth within their own organisations, aiming for a total of 210 youth trained in the first year. The knowledge, skills and materials to deliver livelihood training for young people will be retained by the youth workers and the local organisations for which they work, enabling them to replicate this impact year on year.

Since the training the eight organisations involved have formed a Community of Practice which is meeting regularly to discuss the implementation of the training in their organisations. Links have been made with a local micro finance institution that is offering to make start-up loans available to youth with business plans that meet their criteria. In addition the local Ministry for Social Assistance and Human Rights has shown great interest in the project and the possibility of extending it to provide training within their network of residential care facilities for young people. Street Kids is supporting the Community of Practice with technical expertise in youth entrepreneurship and financial literacy and is providing guidance to the local partner, Terra dos Homens, on the management of the project.

The youth trained so far have already applied their new found business knowledge to development of their individual business plans. Youth completing the training are already reporting increased self-esteem and confidence to put their plans into action and realise their goals. The local youth worker network is targeted with training an additional 180 youth during the project period and Street Kids estimates that 50% of the youth trained during the project will start or expand a business, secure a job or return to education. The increased earning power of young people supported by this project is estimated to have a positive impact on the lives of 400 family members increasing their ability to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and medical care. The project outcomes are being monitored by the local partner via the Community of Practice and via individual follow up and support meetings with the youth workers involved. Street Kids will conduct a final evaluation visit at the end of the year to assess the outcomes of the project, conduct interviews with youth and youth workers and assess the need for an extended programme within Caxias and across Brazil. Using the local partner's excellent regional and national networks, the project results and methodology will be shared with a national network as part of a larger project, ensuring that as many organisations, youth workers and youth as possible can benefit from this intervention.

Following a short discussion, the President thanked Ms Frankl very much for a very interesting presentation.

### **Challenge Aid**

The President then introduced Mr Iestyn Thomas, Founder and CEO of Challenge Aid, formerly known as Schoolchildren for Children.

Mr Thomas explained that Challenge Aid had developed what it believed to be a unique concept in Africa, namely an alternative type of education complementary to the education offered in local schools in the slums of Nairobi. Challenge Aid's "Schools of Hope" (SoH) operate after school hours, giving children educational support by providing desks, chairs, lighting and a good supply of up-to-date text books with responsible supervision in a safe and conducive learning environment. Challenge Aid works with two partners on the ground in Nairobi, Carlile Urban Mission and a secular organisation called Pamoja. The principle was that the SoH should become self sustainable and that responsibility for them should be taken back by the community after four years.

He said that the SoH offer aspirational young people the opportunity to succeed and escape a lifetime of poverty by improving their job prospects and helping them to increase their self esteem through drama, music and sport at weekends. A regular series of life skill lectures is also offered for the students on topics such as substance abuse and HIV/AIDS awareness.

He reported that so far Challenge Aid had opened 14 "Schools of Hope". Grant from BFSS had enabled Challenge Aid to open two new SoH in 2012, Faith SoH in Baba Dogo in Korogocho, situated in the most challenging environment of all the Nairobi slums, and Tumaini SoH. Security was a key issue especially at Faith SoH.

He said that students on the programme had already shown significant academic and behavioural improvement. The SoH were allowing aspiring young people to make significant improvements to their academic achievements.

After a short discussion, the President thanked Mr Thomas very much for a very interesting presentation.

## **AGM14/09**

### **Concluding Remarks and Date of Next Meeting**

In conclusion the President thanked all the speakers and said that he was very pleased to be associated with the BFSS which, as was evident from the presentations, was making a real difference to disadvantaged children and young people at a time. He also thanked the BFSS staff for their contribution

The President announced that the next Annual General meeting would be held on 22<sup>rd</sup> May 2015. He declared the meeting closed at 4pm.

Minuted by:

Secretary

Authenticated by:

Chairman