

Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting of Esperanto-Asocio de Britio April 19th, 2015, The Jubilee Library, Brighton

1: Paul Gubbins welcomed the EAB members present and explained that the formalities of the AGM would be conducted in English as is required by the Charity Commission of England and Wales, but that members should feel free to offer comments in Esperanto should they wish to once the formalities were over. He opened the meeting with a commemoration of the members who have passed away since the previous AGM; their names were read out and a few moments' silence was observed. He then read out a list of new members and supporters that had joined since the 2014 AGM and extended a warm welcome to them.

2: Apologies were received from Brian Bishop, Arnold Pitt, Simeon Elliot, Malcolm Jones, Jean Bisset and David Bisset. 33 members were present. Employee Viv O'Dunne was present to record the minutes of the meeting.

3: The minutes of the previous AGM from Sheffield were received and approved subject to minor changes.

4: The Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) for the year ending October 31st 2014, circulated with Update 69, was received. Paul Gubbins extended thanks to the trustees, staff and volunteers for their hard work throughout the year and made special mention of Tim Owen and Clare Hunter's constant and reliable contribution to the work of the association. Paul Gubbins summarised the TAR paragraph by paragraph.

4.1: Paul Gubbins thanked Jack Warren for organising the 2014 British Esperanto Conference in Sheffield and again extended thanks to everyone who'd contributed to the achievements listed in the TAR. He concluded this agenda item by encouraging members to consider standing as a management committee candidate at the next AGM.

5: Clare Hunter presented the financial report, previously circulated with *Update* 69, and she read through a simplified version of the accounts.

5.1: Clare Hunter detailed elements of the charity's finances, explaining that expenditure was slightly down on the previous year's, income was comparable, and that the charity had run a small surplus over the course of the financial year. She informed the meeting that there had been a small increase in the value of the charity's investments, and that holdings at the COIF Charities Investment Fund had been switched to the COIF Charities Ethical Fund.

6: The decision on whether to re-appoint the independent examiner was held. Clare Hunter proposed that this remain Dains LLP, seconded by Vilĉjo Walker. This proposal was carried unanimously.

7: Whether to change subscription rates for members was discussed. Tim Owen explained that though the cost hadn't been changed in several years, the per-member cost to the charity had fallen because Update now cost under one half as much to print as previously. Ian Carter proposed that the subscription rates remain unchanged for the next financial year, seconded by Vilĉjo Walker. The proposal was carried unanimously.

8: The proposed motion to amend the constitution (circulated with Update 69) was read out in full by Paul Gubbins and then discussed by the meeting point by point, with several members feeding in.

8.1: Tim Owen read out a statement from Paul Dennett, who regularly visits the Butler Library, and who is standing for trusteeship in order to take on formal responsibility for the library. In this statement, Paul Dennett identified areas where the constitutional change would create more problems than it solves, and asked the meeting not to accept the resolution. Instead, he suggested that a more fruitful course would be for him to work in the library but address the concerns behind the resolution with its proposer, Brian Bishop.

8.2: John Murray suggested that Brian Bishop should be thanked for his concerns and that the management committee should be trusted to deal with the management of the library going forward.

8.3: The vote to change the constitution was held. There were no votes for and no abstentions; the resolution wasn't carried.

9: Election of trustees: The members voted in a secret ballot. Viv O'Dunne was the vote counter, assisted by Vilçjo Walker.

10: The floor opened up to comments, suggestion and discussions whilst the votes were counted. Several members offered viewpoints and most of the discussion took place in Esperanto.

10.1: Paul Gubbins presented Joyce Bunting with a certificate acknowledging that she had been awarded a fellowship in gratitude for the many years of work which she had contributed to the charity.

10.2: Paul Gubbins revisited the topic of his recent editorial in *La Brita Esperantisto*, namely the fact that attendance at the annual conference was continually falling and the tradition of people volunteering to hold it had stopped. The members present shared their opinions, with many people articulating a wish to keep the annual event running. Nobody expressed a preference for an alternative of an AGM (required by the constitution) and keynote lecture. Nonetheless, nobody proposed running one for the following year, even though Tim Owen, who was organising his fourth in a row, explained that the office would handle the admin and he would create the artwork and website if specialist assistance were required. Paul Gubbins summarised the discussion, expressing that he was heartened to observe that people still wanted to keep the event and that the trustees would discuss what to do in their forthcoming meeting.

10.3: The results for the election of the trustees were announced:

<i>Name</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Ian Carter	55	1	2
Paul Dennett	56	0	2
Edmund Grimley Evans	56	0	2
Paul Gubbins	58	0	0
Clare Hunter	51	4	3
Tim Owen	55	1	2
Ed Robertson	57	0	1

Ian Carter, Paul Dennett, Edmund Grimley Evans, Paul Gubbins, Clare Hunter, Tim Owen and Ed Robertson were duly elected. Paul Gubbins was duly re-elected president.

10.4: Paul Gubbins advised the meeting that he had taken on the role of EAB's *Komitatano-A* on UEA's committee in the absence of a volunteer, and that his three-year mandate would be up in a year's time. He stated that he had taken up the role reluctantly in this instance and would be unlikely to volunteer to serve a second term. Tim Owen explained that the trustees had decided that whoever occupies the role should not have to pay to attend the *Universala Kongreso*, and so EAB would pay the person's *kotizo*, which is already reduced by 50% by UEA. He added that a candidacy wouldn't necessarily mean an appointment, since the person occupying the role represents the charity and so the trustees would have to consider suitability. Nonetheless, when the members were asked whether anybody might be interested in volunteering for the role, nobody expressed an interest.

10.5: John Wells thanked Michael Seaton, who had stepped down as a trustee, for his work over the years. Paul Gubbins added his well-wishes on the occasion of Michael's engagement.

10.6: Peter Bolwell asked whether it might be possible to remunerate Tim Owen because of his excessively heavy workload. Tim thanked him for his gesture but responded that trustees aren't allowed to be paid for the role. Angela Tellier mentioned that EAB had had roles such as Director of Development in the past, and queried whether it might be possible to bring it back, either for Tim, or for someone else to absorb elements of his and other trustees' workloads. The trustees will look into this.

10.7: Paul Gubbins thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 12:45.

Signed _____ (Print name: _____) Date: _____