



**Annual General Meeting**

**Board of Directors attending**

- Nathan Littleton - Interim Chair
- Yvonne Emery - Interim Vice Chair
- Phil Ingle – Finance Director
- Mike Pagan – Foundation Director
- Patrick Mercie - Commercial Director
- Denise Fay - Marketing Director
- Leon Bamforth - Membership Director
- Michelle Mills-Porter - Acting National President
- Alastair Greener - Director of Regions

**Apologies:**

Olga Geidane - Director of Regions Elect

**Scrutineers:**

Sam Warner and Denise Fay

Members attending – 67

Notes	Actions
1. Nathan Littleton (Interim Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed all members, making note of the recent updates and financial situation the PSA finds itself in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSA is facing significant financial challenges, with losses of £95,000 this year and £48,000 last year</li> <li>• New board members have been appointed and cost-cutting measures are being implemented to address the financial situation</li> <li>• A crisis team of past presidents has been brought in to advise the board and investigate the financial issues</li> <li>• Membership numbers are increasing despite challenges, indicating PSA remains valuable to speakers</li> </ul>	
2. Roll call of Directors and Introductions – Each Director gave an update of what they had done that year, and in the case of the newer Directors, they gave a brief overview of what they had planned for the following year.	
3. Approval of Notice Convening the Meeting Proposer = Alan Stevens and Seconder = Sam Warner	

<p>59 out of 66 participated: 58 voted for; 1 abstention</p>	
<p>4. Approval of the AGM minutes from 2023 as a fair and accurate representation. Proposer = Fiona Brennan Scott and Seconder = Sue Evans 59 out of 66 participated: 38 voted for; 21 abstained</p>	
<p>5. Matters arising from the minutes – NL apologies to Jackie Barrie who requested a slot at future AGMs to update from the Fellows Community. Otherwise, no actions arising.</p>	
<p>6. Financial Report by Finance Director Phil Ingle, Finance Director reported on the current financial accounts.</p> <p>Following a separate financial update meeting on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October where many questions were addressed and 104 members attended, this will be an update on further actions that the Board are taking in response to the current financial position.</p> <p>In the last few days the Board has been working very hard reviewing the level of our overheads and have begun to make some significant reductions.</p> <p>The project ‘BoB’ which was originally planned to help us manage the event bookings and Regional Meetings has been placed on hold at the moment.</p> <p>As a result of a system shortcoming in July 2023, there are several members who won’t have paid their membership fees and this is a project that we will take on to get this corrected. Please send an e-mail to <a href="mailto:phil.ingle@thepsa.co.uk">phil.ingle@thepsa.co.uk</a> with a subject title of ‘hands up’ so that we can get this fixed. There will be no comeback on you, but this is one of the ways you can help us at this time.</p> <p>A crisis team has been put in place comprising Alan Stevens, Lee Jackson and Dr Lynda Shaw. All previous past Presidents of the PSA who will be overseeing an investigation of the last few years that has led to these shortfalls, and we will also have in place 2 Auditors who will review the accounts for the same time period.</p> <p>The word Scrutineer will be used instead of Auditors and they will be appointed during this meeting.</p> <p>Phil Ingle then shared and reviewed the accounts in full.</p> <p>Accounts to be ratified when the scrutineers have finished their work and presented to the membership prior to the HMRC deadline.</p> <p>Will Kintish to be proposed as the first Scrutineer. Proposer = Sam Warner, Seconder = Mark Lee 58 out of 65 participated: 56 voted for; 2 abstained</p> <p>Derek Cheshire to be the second Scrutineer.</p>	<p>Review all membership fees paid and identify any missing payments. Notify members if their payment has been missed.</p> <p>Further meeting for Accounts to be ratified by the membership</p> <p>2 Scrutineers to be elected – Will Kintish and Derek Cheshire</p>

<p>Proposer = Mark Lee, Seconder = Maria Franzoni 56 out of 66 participated: 50 voted for; 6 abstained</p> <p>Nathan Littleton updated the members on the position of the Crisis Team. They will have 2 functions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To conduct an investigation into the background of the financial position.</li> <li>2. To oversee Board decisions for the short-term. They have put in place a veto over any spending in excess of £3,000.</li> </ol> <p>They are offering input on other decisions but are not members of the board and therefore have no voting rights.</p> <p>If there is anything that you feel that you can offer help with then we would love your support.</p>	
<p>7. Annual Reports were made by the Board of Directors</p>	
<p>8. Retirements and Elections</p> <p>Appointed to the Board were Phil Ingle, Leon Bamforth, Marina Ibrahim, Patrick Mercie, Yvonne Emery and eventually Olga Geidane who has not been appointed on Companies House officially yet.</p> <p>Retirements from Marina Ibrahim, William Buist, Joanne Lockwood and Chantal Cornelius.</p> <p>Changes to Board roles – Nathan Littleton becoming Interim Chair, Yvonne Emery becoming Interim Vice Chair and Michelle Mills-Porter has now taken over as acting National President until next week when she will become National President, and finally Leon Bamforth who is now Membership Director – he was previously Membership Director Elect.</p> <p>Vote required for Alastair Greener to be nominated as the next National President Elect.</p> <p>[Discussion was undertaken to consider if we wished to have a President and Vice President rather than a ‘President Elect’. This point was supported by other members. To be discussed further.</p> <p>Vote for Alastair Greener for National President Elect Proposer = Scott Johnston; Seconder = Xohan Duran 53 out of 59 participated: 45 voted for; 4 against; 6 abstained</p>	<p>Review titles of President roles</p>
<p>9. Special Resolutions or By-law Changes by the Board None Proposed</p>	
<p>10. Presentation of Policies and Governance Documents to be acknowledged</p> <p>Proposer = Sam Warner; Seconder = Scott Johnson 50 out of 57 participated: 44 voted for; 6 abstained</p>	

<p>Decisions log is a requirement of the articles which must be kept for the last 10 years (Alan Stevens)</p>	<p>Decisions log to be kept updated</p>
<p><b>10. Open Forum and Member Proposals</b></p> <p>Jackie Barrie provided an update from the Fellows Community. This year there have been no upgrades to Fellow and so JB's focus for next year will be on reviewing the process and assessing whether or not there are too many hurdles to jump.</p> <p>Jennifer de St. Georges proposed that Summits happen near to airports for members to access more easily. Locations may be made with a consistent chain to reduce costs. Consider if October and April are the best months to hold conferences, and the very top speakers need to be invited to attract the most members to events.</p> <p>Rohit Talwar asked when the questions raised by members would be answered by past board members. NL stated that this would be discussed by the board and Crisis Team but ultimately up to the parties involved whether they would wish to participate in that.</p> <p>It was suggested that 'Crisis Team' was an inflammatory term and that it might be changed to 'Recovery Team' in due course. (Sam Warner)</p> <p>Fellows fee increase was marginal in comparison to Professional members fees last year and actually Fellows fees should be increased more this year. (Fiona Brennan-Scott)</p>	<p>Review venues and times of Summits</p> <p>Questions asked to be answered</p> <p>Crisis team name to be reviewed</p> <p>Fees charged to be reviewed</p>
<p><b>11. Setting the Agenda for the Coming Year from the Chair</b></p> <p>The most pressing concern, of course, is our financial health. We need a stable footing before we can even consider anything in terms of growth, but part of that is reducing our costs and also increasing our revenue has a huge impact too.</p> <p>To bring a small positive to the table, if we can, I'm delighted to say that membership numbers are increasing and that means that we know the PSA is a valuable resource for speakers.</p> <p>Even in the current situation, the PSA has to continue to be valuable if we want our members to stay and if we're going to attract people to become members and to attend our events in the future.</p> <p>So, I do want to thank you all for coming. I am looking forward to seeing you at the Summit next week.</p> <p>Nathan Littleton officially closed the meeting.</p>	

**Next Annual General Meeting will be held in October 2025.**