



## **Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 9.17p.m. at the OSO**

**Present:** Fiona Smith Chairman, Helen Willan Vice-Chairman, Claire Boyling Honorary Secretary, David Minch Honorary Treasurer, Patrick Harvey, Lucy Hine, Sarah Kearney, David King-Farlow together with 23 Society members.

### **Introduction by Chairman**

Fiona Smith formally welcomed members, thanked them for staying for the AGM and referred them to the Agenda, Minutes from last year's AGM and Annual Report for year ended Sept 2011, which had been distributed to those present.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Patrick Neate, Isla Blair, Julian Glover

### **Minutes of AGM held on 16 March 2011**

The minutes were proposed by Stephen Beard and seconded by Heather Parkinson as an accurate record. The resolution was passed on a show of hands.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Chairman's Report**

Fiona Smith, Chairman, included a report in the financial document which she hoped those present had, for the year ending Sept 2011. She summarised some key points and said a few words of thanks.

Looking back at last year's programme she thought that we had some excellent speakers as well as fascinating topics.

Peter and Dan Snow started the season with a military theme and this was followed by way of complete contrast with our patron Jan Pieńkowski and David Walser's beautifully illustrated presentation '*Sacred and Profane*'.

Deborah Moggach began the New Year with "From 'Page to Screen'" which included reference to her book 'These Foolish Things' which is now on in cinemas as the film 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'.

Spring events were varied with contrasting topics of heroes and villains with Jenny Haddon's talk on romantic fiction and Russell James' subject of crime writing.

Blake Morrison concluded on the influence of a writer's personal life on his novels.

Those who joined our outings enjoyed the opportunity to socialise as well as have interesting literary visits – firstly to the Parliamentary Archives, and secondly on a walk 'In the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes' which was chosen to link with the theme of villains in literature. Our summer party 'A Marvellous Party' was as popular as ever and tickets sold out for the performance by Two Cousins and a Piano celebrating the wit of Noel Coward.

The Chairman is sure that members appreciate the organisation and smooth running of the society is dependent on a great deal of hard work behind the scenes on the part of the committee who all have specific roles which they fulfil with great commitment to BLS, and invited them to show their appreciation. The committee is of course aware that they must ensure succession planning and is making a few changes this year to the committee with the retirement of our Treasurer.

Our patrons, Isla Blair, Julian Glover, Roger McGough, Patrick Neate and Jan Pieńkowski have continued to give their support, and their encouragement is appreciated. Particular gratitude is due to Jan Pieńkowski who produces our publicity brochure.

BLS is also grateful for the support of the Barnes Community Association's monthly publication 'Prospect' which gives regular coverage of our activities, and the local library and shops for promoting our publicity. The Barnes Book Shop has been loyal to BLS since it was founded. We appreciate Isla Dawes' regular donation of a book voucher for members, and her attendance at events with our speakers' books.

The Chairman also thanked Alan from AT Sound who ensures what she thinks members will agree is an excellent sound system. Also appreciated is the regular help of Sheila Hayward Smith, one of our members, who takes minutes at our meetings and is doing so this evening. Both were thanked with a round of applause.

Finally she thanked the members for their support and enthusiasm and hoped that they continue to enjoy their membership of BLS.

### **Honorary Treasurer's Report 2011**

David Minch, Treasurer, drew attention to the Report which members had in front of them.

Page 3 of the Annual Report contains our Income and Expenditure Statement for the year. There was a small 3% increase in expenditure in 2011 compared to the previous year, but this was more than offset by an 8% increase in income, arising mainly from ticketed events. The bottom line result therefore is that we had a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £856.

Turning over to Page 4 of the Report shows the Society's Balance Sheet. Net financial assets at the end of the year amounted to £6,072. These financial assets are regarded as a cushion to enable the Society to face uncertainties, such as the number of renewals each October, and to have time to adjust our budget accordingly. As members know, once again membership numbers have had to be capped because of seating limitations in the hall.

Each of our Regular Events last year, including rent, publicity and overheads etc. cost an average of over £1,100. The Summer Event and various Outings during the year are ticketed and are intended to be self-financing.

This summarises our financial position. David's term as Treasurer ends with this Report and he is glad to be able to hand over to his successor a treasury in reasonably good health. He said he was proud to have belonged to such a team.

The Treasurer recommended that the Annual Accounts for 2011 be approved as presented and invited questions. There being no questions the Accounts and Annual Report were adopted by a show of hands after being proposed by Fenella Deards and seconded by Kavita Jindal.

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank David Minch for his 8 years as Treasurer to BLS. He has been Treasurer since BLS started and has kept the finances in excellent shape and been an energetic and supportive committee member. She has valued his advice and ideas for the development of the society and knows that she speaks for all the committee in saying that they will miss him very much. Members applauded to show their appreciation of David's term of office and the Chairman made a small presentation.

### **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The Chairman read the nominations for the coming year with the names of proposers and seconders, as follows –

#### **Officers**

Chairman: Fiona Smith	Proposer: Jean Otty	Secunder: Maria Harvey
Vice-Chairman: Helen Willan	Proposer: Neville Otty	Secunder: E L R Wilson
Hon Treasurer: Patrick Harvey	Proposer: Peter Dixon	Secunder: Molly Anderson
Hon. Secretary: Claire Boyling	Proposer: Audrey Miles	Secunder: Esther Senhenn

#### **Committee Members**

Membership: Sarah Kearney	Proposer: Magdalena Beevor Newton	Secunder: Shirley
Logistics: David King-Farlow	Proposer: Catherine Sacré	Secunder: Fiona Dare
Publicity: Lucy Hine	Proposer: Neville Otty	Secunder: Robin Eastwood

The above officers and committee members were duly elected en bloc on a show of hands.

### **Any other business**

Members endorsed a vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work, proposed by member , Stephen Beard.

The Chairman thanked the members for their support and declared the meeting closed at 9.31p.m.