

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**27 AUGUST 2022**

**16:45 to 17:45**

**Via in person and Zoom at Liverpool Guild of Students, Liverpool, L3 5TR**

## **Attending in person:**

Trustees: Joanna Gaukroger (Chair), Paul Fix (Vice Chair), Gary Barth (Treasurer until 26/8), Pete Bryan (Treasurer from 26/8), Christine Simpson, Neil Morjaria, Naheem Bashir, Chantal Anderson, Rhian Binns, Deborah Johnston

Staff: Jane Powell, George Somers, Stephen Halliday, Vidya Bijarnia, Kirsten Howells

Members: Allan Tyrer, Tim Fell, John Russell, Simon Daddow, Clive Collins, Linda Andrews, John Evans, Jack Nicholas, Malcolm Gaudie, Alexander Harrison, Derek Maynard, Barbara Moseley Harris, John Bowden, Vic Bowden,

**Non-members attending in person:** Doug Scott, Dina Lilian, Denise Admiral

**Attending by Zoom:** Mark Anthony Bastiani, Carolyn Yeates, Paul Pearsall, John Thompson, Aishwarya Karim

## **1 Welcome and apologies**

Joanna Gaukroger welcomed members to the meeting, and advised that she had received two apologies - John Carling and Michael Brassington – with both completing the necessary Proxy forms to ensure their votes were recorded.

## **2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record (Proposed by Derek Maynard, Seconded by Christine Simpson). [15 for, 0 against, remaining attendees did not vote as they had not been present]

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

## **3 Finance Report and Accounts**

Gary Barth as the outgoing Treasurer of STAMMA presented a summary of the 2021 Accounts. Total income for the year was £293,104 (the previous year was £1,065,062 as a result of key legacies, including from Owen Simon).

Expenditure for 2021 totaled £389,983 (an increase of approximately £90,000 compared with the previous year). These figures were in line with the budget approved by the Trustees, and reflect investment from reserves in capacity building, particularly staffing, to drive forward the 5-year Strategic Plan.

Looking forward to 2022, key activities include running STAMMAfest Global 2022 (the first UK conference for three years), and the significant increase in one-off income and expenditure which would result from this. The overall financial position remains positive and in line with the 2022 budget approved by Trustees.

**Motion:** That the AGM accepts the Financial Accounts  
[Proposed by Neil Morjaria, Seconded by Rhian Binns]  
For 35, Against 0, Abstained 0.

*The full audited accounts have been published on the STAMMA website at <https://STAMMA.org/about-us/constitution-finances>*

#### **4 CEO Report**

**Jane Powell (CEO) presented her report**, which detailed progress against the four objectives outlined in the 2018 five-year Strategic Plan:

**Supporting more people who stammer** In addition to the helpline and webchat STAMMA now provide, extended support for individuals, an Employment Clinic for employers and employees (covering advice to employers about equal access to jobs and making reasonable adjustments) and have provide a number of workshops for families. STAMMA is also challenging poor practice around stammering within larger organisations to reduce discrimination.

**Build membership and community support and facilitate networks** – Over the past year there has been a growth in membership and supporters. While numbers on site visits and page views in the first six months of 2022 are down compared with the final six months of 2021, this was in large part as a result of the changes in reporting by Google Analytics, which allegedly excludes much of previously reported ‘bot’ activity. [An Internet bot, web robot, robot or simply bot, is a software application that runs automated tasks over the Internet, usually with the intent to imitate human activity on the Internet].

**Educate the public** – campaigns and events included the October 2021 “No Diversity Without Disfluency” campaign, with the campaign video showing in cinemas nationwide from March until October 2022

**Manage the BSA effectively and efficiently** – As STAMMA has expanded support, the workload between adults and families and children has been split; with the appointment of Catherine Woolley for families and children. The National Lottery Community Fund has made possible the appointment of a Local Groups & Network Lead, Vee Meyners. STAMMA has appointed Vidya Bijarnia on Salesforce and moved to new premises in Central London, and adopted a cheap cloud-based telephone system.

### **Key goals for 2023**

- Improve access to goods and services
- Revamp the website
- Launch a legal support clinic
- Expand our employment service
- Increase fundraising
- Grow membership

Jane Powell paid tribute to the enormous contributions made by three members of STAMMA who had died since October 2021 (the last AGM). These were Roy Tranckle, Lynne Mackie and Melanie Russell.

*More information on achievements and activities is available on the STAMMA website <https://STAMMA.org/about-us/performance-review>.*

### **Motion: That the AGM accepts the CEO Report**

[Proposed by John Russell, Seconded by Chantal Anderson] For 35, Against 0, Abstained 0.

## **5 Appointment of Independent Auditors**

Joanna stated that, regardless of whether or not STAMMA income exceeded the necessary thresholds each year, the Board was keen to continue with an external professional audit to give Trustees and Members firm assurance about the integrity and accuracy of the Charity's financial reporting.

**Motion:** That the AGM agrees to the appointment of Royce, Peeling, Green as the Charity's auditors for 2022/23.

[Proposed by Tim Fell, Seconded by Derek Maynard] For 35, Against 0, Abstained 0.

## **6 Appointment of new trustees following the outcome of the 2022 Election**

**Mandy Taylor and Alexander Harrison** had come top in the 2022 Trustee Elections, with 127 and 120 votes respectively.

**Motion:** To approve the appointment of the two candidates with the highest number of votes in the 2022 Election

[Proposed by Malcolm Gaudie, Seconded by Chantal Anderson] For 35, Against 0, Abstained 0.

The two successful candidates were welcomed to the Board.

Joanna reported that the Board had unanimously approved the appointment of Pete Bryan as STAMMA Treasurer for a period of 3 years, replacing Gary Barth (who was stepping down because of pressures of work).

Joanna thanked the Trustees attending leaving the Board (Christine Simpson, Neil Morjaria and Gary Barth) and presented them each with a set of two engraved Dartington glasses. Betony Kelly was thanked in her absence.

There was no other business.

**The meeting closed at 17:42 pm**