

HGS U3A
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on 14th July at 10.00am on ZOOM

1. Welcome - Chair

Chair Jack Berkovi welcomed all members attending the AGM and thanked everyone for their efforts in maintaining our U3A. He also welcomed two guests, Ravinder Patel, Independent Accounts Examiner, and John Bent, Third Age Trust Regional Trustee for London.

The purpose of the today's meeting was set out in a note to members notified 21 days prior to the AGM date.

- a) To receive the Trustees' Report.
- b) To appoint Ravindra Patel to examine the accounts as an Independent Examiner
- c) To agree Subscription rates for the year 2020-2021
- d) To re-appoint Trustees David Powers and Jack Berkovi.
- e) To appoint Wendy Fishman as Secretary

Apologies for Absence (*added after AGM*)

Messages were received from Bernice Berman, Carole Berry, Betti Blatman, Stan Clingman, Evi Fishburn, Mary Fraser, Marion Godfrey, Shuli Reich, Anne Sultoon, Linda Tanner,

2. Quorate Check - Webmaster

David Powers, Webmaster, checked to see the number of attendees (quorate) as there should be at least 10% of the members present at the AGM. There were enough members and therefore we met the constitutional requirement. We tested the voting procedure.

3. Trustees' Report - Chair

- Last year we became a registered charity and regulated by the Charity **Commission**.
- There are 547 members, including 15 honorary members.
- 70 interest groups and more than 40 programmes operated online and we are expanding in the Autumn especially more talks online.
- In the past year we introduced a number of new groups.
- There was an Open Day last year which was well attended.
- Monthly topical talks, Newsletters and news bulletins are going out to members
- Public relations in Suburb News and The Archer.
- In September 2019 there was an Open day which attracted 200 visitors and 6 new members.
- Partnership with Middlesex University started in February 2019, 12 members are mentoring students.

Plans for 2020-21

- Position our U3A as an enjoyable online learning experience.

- Target of 500 core members, and additional members welcome.
- 70 plus interest Groups and at least 40 online.
- An open day Webinar is planned for Tuesday 1st September 2020.
- The new Members handbook will be in digital format.
- Continue PR in Suburb News and The Archer (East Finchley)

Margaret Harris who was co-opted by the Chair has resigned.

Each year, one-third of the Trustees have to retire. David Powers and Jack Berkovi agreed to stand down and offered to stand for re-election.

The seven Trustees as at 31st May 2020:

Jack Berkovi	Chair
Margaret Harris	Vice-Chair (subsequently resigned)
David Powers	Webmaster
Arjun Matthai	Treasurer
Margaret Bendor	Membership Secretary
Daphne Berkovi	Groups Co-ordinator
Eleanor Levy	New Groups Organiser

4. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer

We ended the financial year with a surplus of £7,271 and cash in the bank of £18,461. Gross income at £24,978 was just below the £25,000 threshold, above which charity law requires the accounts to be externally scrutinized by an Independent Examiner.

In the interests of good governance, the Financial Accounts were independently examined by Mr Ravindra Patel ACCA (a retired Senior General Manager of Eastman Kodak) who gave them unqualified approval as he did last year.

We encourage members to pay subscriptions by bank transfer rather than cheque. If paying by cheque there will be a £2 extra charge for admin.

Proposed subscriptions were discounted due to venue cancellations for the current year:

- Existing members single £25 and two people at the same address (joint) £40.
- New members £30 and £50 respectively
- Payment by cheque, existing members £27 and joint £42, new members £32, joint £52.

5. Resolutions with results of voting

5.1. To receive and adopt the Trustees Report and the independently examined annual accounts of HGS U3A for the financial year ended 31 May 2020 which the Trustees have approved and take full responsibility for.

Voting: For 58, Against 0, Abstain 1

5.2. To reappoint Ravindra Patel as independent examiner of accounts.

Voting: For 59, Against 0, Abstain 0

5.3. To reduce subscription rates to £25 for an individual and £40 (joint) for two members at same address.

Voting: For 59, Against 0, Abstain 0

Subscription for new members: £30 for an individual and joint £50.

Voting: For 57, Against 1, Abstain 1

Payment by BACS. If cheques used £2 supplement to be added.

Voting: For 55, Against 2, Abstain 2

5.4. To re-elect David Powers as Trustee and Webmaster.

Voting: For 59, Against 0, Abstain 0

To re-elect Jack Berkovi as Trustee and Chair.

Voting: For 58, Against 0, Abstain 1

5.5 To appoint Wendy Fishman as Trustee and CIO Secretary.

For 56, Against 0, Abstain 4

6. Open Forum

Barbara Jackson

“What is the situation regarding the booking of venues for the coming year?”

Jack replied that safety of our members was our priority and we are awaiting further information about protection before and between events. If the news changes members will be notified.

Myke Jacobs

“Are any events planning to start in September?”

Jack answered that they were still awaiting instructions.

Richard Abramson

“How is our group experience compared with other U3A groups?”

Daphne answered that some U3A groups had closed and some were re-opening.

John Bent

John Stated that four outside groups that had already started with only six people allowed in each group. The onus was on those attending. Over 70's and those vulnerable should not be attending. Also the outside activities had to be risk-assessed, taking into account lack of toilets, refreshments and public transport.

Sally Cass

Stated that the work done had been great and admirable. She thanked all those concerned.

Alan and Sharon Lee

“Was it possible to get a discount if you belonged to other U3A groups?”

Jack answered that he would like to see a national season ticket, such as a blanket subscription rate when needed. Discounts would be reviewed.

Betty Mason

Thanked the committee for their hard work and asked whether one could put a deposit on venues to get bookings, as some groups filled up very quickly.

Jack felt that homes could be available in the Autumn and if not to look at other ways as a number of our groups have expanded, especially Current Affairs.

Mayah Weinberg

“Was there any intention to reimburse their licence fee for those groups running their group on Zoom?”

Jack said that there was no policy to reimburse at present, but it will be discussed further.

Richard Abramson said that he had his own account and has not asked to be reimbursed and Betty Mason had made a donation to the Phoenix Cinema.

Ros Florence

She thanked all the group leaders for having given their time.

Jack finished by saying that more than 70 people had attended the meeting on Zoom and he was privileged to have been re-elected, thanked everyone for their support and hoped that everyone would keep well and safe.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.55 am.