

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the British Science Fiction Association Ltd will be held at: Lecture Theatre 1, Blackett Laboratory Building, Imperial College, London

on Saturday 17th June 2017 at Noon for the following purposes:

1. To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
2. To approve the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2016
3. To receive and consider the Annual Review of the Year.
4. Elections: The following Directors retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election: D Bond & S R Jeffrey
5. Any Other Business

Minutes from BSFA AGM 2016 – Saturday 25th June 2016
Lecture Theatre 1, Blackett Laboratory Building,
Imperial College, London

The BSFA Chair (D Bond) welcomed the attendees and chaired the meeting. Apologies received from Alex Bardy.

1) Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were discussed and following some minor alterations were unanimously approved by the meeting.

2) Treasurer's Report on the financial statements for year ended 30 September 2014

Martin Potts: The year to September 2015 produced a very small deficit of £62- essentially our income covered our costs. It can be seen that our Turnover increased over the year and this was due to ten months benefit of the new memberships from Loncon 3, being received in August 2014 being felt from October to July 2015. You will recall that the deferred income in the 2014 accounts was very high at £8,944. This year the deferred income from subscriptions paid in advance, shown in note 7, has reduced to its more normal level of around £6,000.

The cash position remained strong at £16,039 and at the last AGM we stated we can use some of these funds to finance some extra projects and cover costs as they arise. Thus in 2016 we were able to produce the "Best of Vector" publication which cost £1,184, cover the additional mailing cost for the awards booklet of £1,074, continue to support the James White Award and help finance BSFA meetings outside London. As a result of this the 2016 cash balance will reduce considerably compared to 2015 levels. Thus the committee will continue to manage costs carefully using funds for BSFA events and special projects, like the "Best of Vector" as funds allow.

3) Review of the Year, including publications report

Presented by BSFA Chair Donna Scott –

This has been a great year, one which has seen a number of staff changes, and I would like to welcome everyone who joins us on the committee, as well as say thank you to everyone who put in great work this year to bring out all our publications, manage memberships and organise fantastic events.

In 2015, we once again met our quota for numbers of Focus and Vector magazines published and I would like to thank Vector editors Glyn Morgan and Anna McFarlane, Focus Editor, Dev Agarwal, and Alex Bardy for his work on laying out both magazines and our Awards booklet. Also, thanks to Charles Christian,

poetry editor, outgoing reviews editor, Martin Petto, and incoming reviews editor, Susan Oke.

The next issues will be Vector #284 and Focus #66

We also published a BSFA Special publication from Paul Kincaid and Maureen on the theme of Best of Vector, which was very well received and we are looking to begin work on another special later in the year, although a theme has not yet been decided. As we predicted last year, the schedule for the Awards booklet was very tight to get it out before Easter. That we were able to get the booklet out before Easter was not certain, as we cannot seek permissions from the creators and publishers until a shortlist is established. But we made it, with 2 weeks to go... Admittedly not that long for reading not so much a booklet, but a thick book including 2 novellas. Thank you to everyone involved who made that happen, and also to the writers who made their work available online while we waited for the booklets to drop through the letterbox. Next year, Easter weekend is 4th to 7th April, which gives us some additional reading time - or should that be breathing time?

As stated last AGM, Alex Bardy is looking for someone to take up layouts for one of the magazines, and has decided that he would like to hand over Focus to some one else. We haven't had many enquiries, so if there is anyone who would like to volunteer to do this, or learn how to do it, please let us know. In order to preserve the future of our publications, we need to spread the responsibility a little.

I continue to receive nice comments about the e-newsletter, but am always looking to see how communications can be improved or made more relevant to members, so please continue to send feedback. Thanks again to Alex Bardy for his work in conjunction with BFS and SFSF with organising meetings in York. The London meetings continue to do well. Andrea Dietrich was organiser this year and was assisted by Dave Lally. Andrea, too, is handing over her responsibilities as meeting organiser to Susan Gray.

Thanks To Tony Keen for organising this year's BSFA lectures at Eastercon. Tony Keen is also stepping down as BSFA lecture organiser and Shana Worthen will be taking over this role.

Thanks also to Farah Mendlesohn for her fantastic running of the BSFA Awards and all the people who helped with the count this year. Farah now hands the reign of the Awards Administrator role over to Claire Boothby. Thanks to Terry Jackman for her continued efforts running the Orbiter groups. Thank you, again, to Dave Lally who took over managing the membership lists this year, and who has done a fabulous job of managing payment delays and increased numbers. I would also like to thank Martin Potts again for managing the Association's finances. Martin is still also looking to pass on the mantle of Treasurer, so if anyone would like to step forward please let us know.

Thank you Martin McCallion for managing the website. Our brave Clarke Award judges this year are David Gullen and Ian Whates thank you to them. I can also confirm that next year, our BSFA representatives are Shana Worthen and Una McCormack.

To the future: we are looking to increase our presence at more events, and produce more special publications where we can. I am still working on how we can include an additional poetry award, too.

Events –

BSFA Awards (Clare Boothby)

Clare took over from Farah Mendlesohn. The changes discussed and approved at last year's AGM were implemented with Stage 1 being single nominations Sept-Dec; Stage 2 being a shortlist produced for voting Jan – March. The result was greater awareness of the award throughout the earlier nomination period. Farah introduced online voting and Clare is looking into additional alternatives.

A particular challenge was the tight Easter deadline this year and Clare intends to assess the roles in the process to look for opportunities for efficiencies.

BSFA Lecture (Tony Keen)

The 2016 BSFA Lecture was presented by Rachel Dickinson of the Manchester Metropolitan University, on "Crafting the Future: Ruskin, Textiles and Visions of Futures Past". We had over a hundred people there. In my view we've never had a dud in the BSFA Lecture series, but this was one of the best – Rachel's lecture was fascinating, and provoked much debate afterwards.

It was also the last BSFA Lecture to be organized by me – after seven years it's time for someone new to take over and inject fresh perspectives. I have therefore handed over the role to Shana Worthen. At Donna's invitation, I shall be staying on as a member of the committee.

Membership –

Dave Lally: (1) Membership Numbers : since the 2015 AGM we have had a net increase in membership of 89 (ie UK and non UK). This is after removing people who (mostly) have had their mailing "returned to sender" or have cancelled their membership. Enquiries of why they cancelled have revealed mixed causes but most said their interests have moved elsewhere. This is a slightly larger increase over the previous year (ie 2014-2015)- mainly due to Worldcon 2014/Loncon 3.

(2) Members paying less than the UK £29 payments: a smallish no of long-standing Members at AGM 2015 were continuing to pay an old annual rate. In July 2015 I contacted every member in UK, CI and IOM reminding them of the current rates. A no of members then paid an additional £3 by cheque to bring their annual sub up to date-and this is encouraging.

Despite this, there are still some paying by PayPal the old amount of £26 or less. Again, these are being contacted and encouraged to pay the full amount.

(3) Every New Member: since mid 2015 every joiner/new BSFA Member has received two e-mails from this me setting out an levels of sub/membership, references to both BSFA's own website and its Facebook pages, brief info on our London Monthly Meetings, data on joining the Orbiter Writing Group references to future Eastercons and to other SF-related and a reminder re advising BSFA of any Changes of Address and to --as far as possible-- quoting their BSFA Membership reference in any communication to any BSFA Officer and that such is on every BSFA mailing envelope;

(4) Changes of Address: a number of BSFA members neglect to let us know of Changes of Address in time or indeed they don't ever tell us at all! Their BSFA mailings are returned to the Treasurer and face removal from the database. Please contact myself with any changes of address to reduce the administration and inconvenience caused to both parties when we are not informed.

(5) London Monthly Meetings: my attendance at these continues in support of our London Events Officer I deal with the membership queries, raffle ticket aspects and also make BSFA announcements.

(6) Attendance at SF Conventions : because I am heavily involved in many of these events back-issue of old Vectors, Focuses and BSFA Award Booklets appear as "freebies" at these Conventions and new BSFA Memberships will have flowed from this.

Orbiter –

Terry Jackman: A reminder that Orbiters have now been online for over ten years after being postal before then. They are free to all BSFA members. They are split between Short Story and Novel groups. A couple of members have been nominated for awards and the sense of community within the groups continues to be very positive. Members attention was brought to some bursaries The Milford SF Writers Conference have recently received, for a "writer of colour" (definition on application) to spend a week away FOC (bar travel) – see website for details,

Website – Martin McCallion: No major issues this year however I feel the website is overdue a re-design. I am not a designer but am open to suggestions. There has been a loss of the Eastercon sites and there is a project to recover the material thereon and this could be something the BSFA could be a part of. The meeting discussed the content and the membership were positive toward BSFA assistance with this project.

4) Elections

The following officers were duly re-elected: S Baxter, I G Whates & S Worthen.

5) AOB

BSFA Award: The appropriateness of the length of the shorter fiction category being maximum 50,000 words was discussed with the possibility of proposals to reduce this maximum. External sources were quoted during the discussion confirming 50,000 as a recognised maximum, with Andy Sawyer from the floor stated even 40,000 felt too long. After an open discussion the membership concluded the maximum should remain as it is and no proposal to alter was put to the meeting.

James White Award – Martin McGrath has again passed on his thanks to the BSFA for its continued support of the James White Award Short Story Competition and asked the meeting to be informed that there will likely be an additional award in the future and encouraged to look out for that.

No further business, meeting closed