



## Minutes of the Royal Historical Society Anniversary Meeting (AGM) of 25 November 2022

The Anniversary Meeting (Annual General Meeting, AGM) of the Royal Historical Society ("RHS") was held online on 25 November 2022 at 5:00pm, with Professor Emma Griffin, President of the RHS in the chair.

Prior to commencing the business of the meeting, the Chair welcomed all who had attended the meeting. She noted that due to the format of the meeting on this occasion, the votes of the Fellows and Retired Fellows regarding the scheduled resolutions had been submitted in advance. The Chair thanked all those who had cast their vote.

The Chair noted that questions could be put via the "Q & A" functionality of the meeting, and that those questions that could not be answered during the meeting would be responded to via email shortly afterwards.

### 1. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Anniversary Meeting of 26 November 2021 and Special General Meeting of 18 February 2022

A general resolution to confirm that the minutes of the *Anniversary Meeting of 26 November 2021* and the *Special General Meeting of 18 February 2022*, as circulated in advance of the meeting, were a true and accurate record of the respective meetings was put before the Fellows.

The resolution was **proposed** by Dr A. Smith, and **seconded** by Professor J. Stobart.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a general majority of 100% (139 in favour, 0 against), which passes the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was carried. These documents were therefore duly admitted into the records of the Society.

### 2. To receive a report on the activities of the Royal Historical Society

The Chair presented a report on key achievements of the past year and noted that further information on the activities of the RHS were available in the *Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022*.

The Chair summarised the financial position of the RHS at the close of the Financial Year ended 30 June 2022. The Society had reported an Operating Surplus of ~£80k. The Society's investments had not declined modestly due to external economic and socio-political factors, but the RHS Reserves remained healthy. It was the intention of the Council of the RHS to reduce the operating surplus and expand the Society's programme of spending in the coming years to further support current and new initiatives in support of our Fellows, Members and the historian community more broadly.

At the Anniversary Meeting in November 2021, the Society had introduced two new categories of membership: the 'Associate Fellow' and 'Postgraduate Member' categories.

The President reported that following their introduction, the Society had welcomed 330 new Associate Fellows, and 371 new Postgraduate Members.

Discussing the ongoing work of the RHS in the area of equalities and diversity, it was noted the new Master's Scholarship Scheme introduced within the year. These awards enabled students of history from underrepresented groups to continue with their higher educations. Over the past year £30k had been awarded over 6 scholarships, each with a value of £5k. In the coming year, the Society would continue to offer these Scholarships, with one now to be funded by The Thriplow Trust.

The Chair reported on the Scholars at Risk Fellowship scheme which had been established in collaboration with the British Association for Slavonic and Eastern European Studies; the German History Society; the Ecclesiastical History Society; and, Past & Present. The Society was pleased to report that seven applications resulted in the award of seven Fellowships of £5,000 had been awarded overall, each match funded by the host institution. One Fellowship had been funded by direct fundraising.

The Chair reported on the ongoing advocacy work of the RHS, noting in particular the development of the 'Online Toolkit for Historians' that provided resources and contacts for Historians within departments at risk. Additionally, it was noted that the Society had a track record of providing support to historians at the beginning of their career, with various funds and awards for Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers. As a result of a number of focus groups run by the Society's Secretary for Professional Engagement (Professor Julian Wright), in the coming year the Society would be expanding its programmes to provide new and further support for 'Mid-career Historians'.

The attention of those in attendance was directed towards the new editorial model of *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, along with its new format. The President thanked the previous Literary Director Professor Andrew Spicer and new editors, Dr Kate Smith and Dr Harshan Kumarasingham, for their work on this journey, and noted that current Fellows, Associate Fellows and Members would receive a copy of the journal by the end of the year.

Finally, the Chair reminded the Fellows and Members present, that the Society continues to present an engaging and valuable programme of lectures throughout the year. Looking to the future, it was also noted that the Society had implemented, and sought to continue with, new formats of meetings, including 'Book Panels', Ideas Panels and workshops. In December, the Society would present 'Futures for History Journals' as an online panel discussion.

**3. To commend the '*Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022*' into the records of the Royal Historical Society**

A general resolution to commend the *Trustees Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022*, which was circulated before the meeting, into the records of the Society was put before the Fellows.

The resolution was **proposed** by Dr A. Smith and **seconded** by Professor J. Stobart.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a general majority of 100% (139 in favour, 0 against), which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion is carried. These documents were therefore duly admitted into the records of the Society.

**4. To pass a Special Resolution to adopt proposed changes to the ‘David Berry Essay Trust’ and ‘David Berry Prize’**

A special resolution to adopt proposed changes to the ‘David Berry Essay Trust’ and ‘David Berry Prize’, as per the document circulated prior to the meeting (Appendix 1) was put before the Fellows.

The resolution was **proposed** by Dr A. Smith, and **seconded** by Professor J. Stobart.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a majority of 99% (138 for, 1 against), which passed the 75% threshold necessary for passing a Special Resolution, and as such, the motion is carried.

It was confirmed that, as a result, the RHS would petition the Charity Commission for permission to make the changes mentioned within the proposal document forthwith.

**5. To receive an Announcement of the Election of Councillors**

It was reported that, in accordance with By-Law XXIII, the following Councillors would retire from Council during this meeting:

Adam Budd (University of Edinburgh)  
Chris Marsh (Queen’s University Belfast)  
Helen Nicholson (Cardiff University)

The Chair thanked the retiring Councillors for their work as members of Council and its sub-committees.

In accordance with By-law XXIV, the following had been elected in their place:

Kate Bradley (University of Kent)  
Helen Paul (University of Southampton)  
Olwen Purdue (Queen’s University Belfast)

At the conclusion of the meeting, the retiring Councillors were no longer Trustees of the RHS, being replaced by the newly elected Councillors. The records of the RHS, as well as those of applicable regulators, including the Charity Commission, would be duly updated.

**6. *To receive notification of the fellowship and membership fees for the coming year***

It was confirmed that the following membership subscription fees would be in place for the membership year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

	<b>Within UK</b>	<b>Outside UK</b>
<b>Fellow</b>	£60.00	£70.00
<b>Retired Fellow</b>	£40.00	£50.00
<b>Associate Fellow</b>	£45.00	£55.00
<b>Member</b>	£40.00	£50.00
<b>Postgraduate Member</b>	£20.00	£20.00

\*Hardship rates may be applied for Associate Fellows, Members and Postgraduate Members upon request.

## **7. *To appoint the Auditors***

A general resolution to reappoint Xinadin Auditing of 46-48 East Street, Epsom, Surrey, as the external auditors of the RHS was put before the Fellows.

The resolution was **proposed** by Dr A. Smith, and **seconded** by Professor J. Stobart.

The proxy votes cast in advance of the meeting resulted in a general majority of 99% (138 for, 1 against) which passed the threshold for acceptance, and as such, the motion was carried and Xinadin Auditing were duly reappointed.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed.

**Appended**    Appendix 1 – Proposal: Changes to the David Berry Prize Fund  
                   Appendix 2 – Full Attendance and Voting Record for the Meeting