



**MINUTES OF BRISTOL LAW SOCIETY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6PM
AT THE OFFICE OF BURGESS SALMON,
ONE GLASS WHARF, BRISTOL, BS2 0ZX
AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

Present

In-Person: Edward Thompson (**ECT**); Stuart Henry (**SH**); Coralie McKeivior (**CM**); Rachel Fisher (**RF**); Ben Holt (**BH**); Helen Read (**HER**); John Moriarty (**JM**); Ben Hanham (**BHa**); Nick Haywood (**NH**); Sarah Marchant (**SMA**); Leon Smith (**LRS**); James Woodburn (**JW**); David Sheridan (Wards); Stuart Henry (**SH**); Tim Summers (Temple Bright); Robert Rawle (on behalf of Accountants Milsted Langdon)

Virtually: Erin Sawyer (**ES**) (by phone); Clair Ponting (admin only) (**CLP**); Fiona O’Kane (**FOK**); Salma Maqsood (**SM**); Michael Gupwell (**MG**)

Apologies: Rachel Lobley, Huw Ponting, Jo Campbell, Eleanor MacCannell, Janis Purdy, Roisin O’Dubhlaoidh

Proxies: 12 forms:
Jai Balaghan, Osborne Clarke; Brogan Cheshire, Osborne Clarke; Emily Shields, Osborne Clarke; Ben Tarrant, Ashfords; Joanne Campbell, VWV; Janis Purdy, Independent; Huw Ponting, Enable Law/Foot Anstey; Leah Theobald, Osborne Clarke; Maryam Tariq, Osborne Clarke; Jonathan Ford, Osborne Clarke; Yazmin Adrissi, Osborne Clarke; Jamie Russell, DAC Beachcroft (form handed to CM in-person)



Proxies 2022.docx

1. Welcome, Introductions and Receiving Apologies

ECT opened the meeting at 6.10pm, slightly delayed due to an IT glitch and thanked all for coming to our 152nd AGM. With the number of people in attendance (and holding proxies for the others) the meeting was quorate, and could proceed.

Apologies as above.

2. Minutes of the 151st Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2021

The draft minutes having been posted along with the notice of this AGM. With no comments arising from these:

Proposed: ECT Seconded: CM Voted: All

Motion carried the minutes would be adopted.

3. Report of the Council (including President's and Honorary Secretary's Reports)

President's Report

ECT reading out his report. Thank you again to HER and CLP for their support, it is hugely appreciated.

A copy of the Co-President's Report as delivered on the evening is below at Appendix 1. The Co-President's report was not circulated in advance.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Honorary Secretary's Report

A copy of the Report of the Honorary Secretary is below at Appendix 2. The Honorary Secretary's report was not circulated in advance. There were no questions regarding this report.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

4. Honorary Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Report of the Honorary Treasurer is below at Appendix 3. The Honorary Treasurer's Report was not circulated in advance. There were no questions regarding this report.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

5. Appointment of Milsted Langdon LLP as the Society's Accountants

Robert Rawle from Milsted Langdon was in attendance at the meeting. Milsted Langdon were pleased to accept the appointment as Accountants to the Society and are looking forward to working with the Society for the next 12 months.

Proposed: ECT

Seconded: RF

Voted: All CARRIED

ECT formally thanked RR and Milsted Langdon for their efforts. RR on behalf of ML was very proud to be working with everyone at BLS.

6. The Election of:

CM, as Honorary Secretary, taking over the meeting for the election formalities. It was agreed to vote on Ordinary Member applications as a block.

The elections took place in reverse order as usual:

- Ordinary Member of Council (as per nomination forms received). The majority of Ordinary Members were within their 4 year terms but new ones were as

follows:

Ben Hanham, TLT

Proposed: CM

Seconded: BHa

Sarah Bolt, Freeths

Proposed: CM

Seconded: SB

No objections to each of the above:

Voted: All CARRIED

WELCOME ABOARD

- Honorary Secretary

Coralie McKeivor, Freeths

Proposed: CM

Seconded: SB

Voted: All CARRIED

- Honorary Treasurer

Rachel Fisher, Stowe Family Law

Proposed: CM

Seconded: RF

Voted: All CARRIED

- Vice-President

Stuart Henry, Taylor Rose MW

Proposed: CM

Seconded: SH

Voted: All CARRIED

- Co-Presidents

Erin Sawyer, Irwin Mitchell

Proposed: CM

Seconded: ES

Voted: All CARRIED

Edward Thompson, Temple Bright

Proposed: CM

Seconded: ECT

Voted: All CARRIED

7. The Investiture of the new Co-Presidents of the Society

As this was the 2nd year of the Co-Presidents' term in office, no exchange of the Presidential Chain of Office was made.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

8. Any Other Business

None arising.

ECT Personally I would like to thank John Moriarty for all his hard work. He has been invaluable especially to Erin and I and has overseen BLS going from nearly not existing to the position that we are in today, so thank you very much John, without all of your hard work and sense, we wouldn't be where we are today, it is much appreciated.

JM It has been a good craic. I think there has been a mutual benefit - the last 7.5 years have been interesting to put it mildly. The Society is now in a very

good place. I would also like to mention that thanks ought to go to the likes of the Past Presidents such as Nick Dell and Ashley Palminteri who dug the Society out of a deep deep financial hole. It is now in a position to go forward and provide many more member services. It is now time for me wave goodbye to you all, almost 25 years to the day that I became a Council member - I'm not expecting a gold watch!

Meeting closed at 6.30pm

**BRISTOL LAW SOCIETY 152ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER
2022 AT 6PM AT THE OFFICE OF BURGESS SALMON, ONE GLASS WHARF, BRISTOL, BS2
0ZX AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM**

REPORTS

OF

**REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS, ERIN SAWYER AND EDWARD THOMPSON
(Appendix 1)**

HONORARY SECRETARY, CORALIE McKEIVOR (Appendix 2)

HONORARY TREASURER, RACHEL FISHER (Appendix 3)

BRISTOL LAW SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022
CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The massive changes in just about every aspect of our daily lives that Covid-19 brought now hopefully behind us, BLS has taken stock over the last 12 months having learned a lot from the pandemic. We have taken the structure of the BLS board presidency in a slightly different direction in the past 12 months -balancing the demands of professional and family life, which intersect and often clash without very careful management with Erin, Helen and myself and extremely understanding family members and work colleagues! Thank you both Steve and Emilie for your patience and understanding from both of us.

Erin and I both welcomed new babies into our respective families recently, we have been able to share the honour and responsibilities of being the President of BLS, so that we can properly represent you and also be present for our other important family roles. It has been a year of new additions to the Executive, Erin welcomed William to the Sawyer/Avery family, Bertie joined the Thompsons, and Scarlett was welcomed to the Henry household, so congratulations to everyone.

BLS is undoubtedly a more agile and progressive Law Society as a result of those challenging few years that Ben kindly saw us through. We have learnt to change and adapt while continuing to deliver for our members. We are looking ahead to the next 12 months and beyond, to continue working with our dynamic legal community in Bristol and Bath, to continue to promote access to justice defending attacks on our profession, and to continue the exciting projects that we have in place on wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, environmental and sustainability, legal tech and community engagement initiatives that so many of our Council members are involved in.

Thank you to our incredible corporate and individual members for their continued support in all forms. Without our members we would not be able to work to address issues relevant to the Bristol and Bath Legal profession. All of the work that Bristol Law Society and its Council members do is entirely voluntary and couldn't be achieved without Helen and Clair. I said that at the Annual Dinner and embarrassed them by giving them flowers, but thank you again for all the hard work that you do, especially this year with organising everything that is going on, moving back to the real world, and then moving out of 12 Colston Avenue, we have thrown a lot your way and you're both hugely appreciated.

This has been a year of adapting to change and also trying to fit our pre-pandemic lifestyles into a new model we are on the cusp of our new BLS website which we might see before the end of the year. Fingers crossed and please do look for it and thanks to our web developers Conscious Solutions for putting that together. We have moved out of our home at 12 Colston Avenue this year and we have leased that on a 10 year term to Bristol Training Institute who have had a huge revamp of the premises, the space and facilities, and are running various courses for local businesses and college courses for school leavers from Level 2 up to Diplomas which is great to be able to be supporting a worthwhile business who is really engaged in the Bristol Sector.

We are still continuing to work remotely and one of our projects for the coming year will be to find a permanent space for Helen and Clair but thanks as we are tonight to our corporate members who kindly hosted through Council meetings (for tonight's AGM we are being hosted at Burges Salmon), Community Engagement meetings and events over the year, it is hugely appreciated.

We have instituted law firms sharing their roots to sustainability and environmental governance and net zero/carbon neutral. The legal industry again using its power of collaboration as it does so well to lead the way in pushing down emissions across the legal sector as a whole and working across sectors with other professional services, we have worked with the Institute of Chartered Accountants for England and Wales (ICAEW) in the South West, and hosted discussions between law and accountancy firms to see what collaboration there can be across the professional services.

As always BLS continues to be busy and inventive for you, our members, so thank you for your continued support and please do keep telling us what we can do for you - we are your society!

We will have a Charity of the Year in the coming year but it will be different to the one we had this year, Erin will tell us about it at a later point.

Edward Thompson and Erin Sawyer
Co-Presidents 2021-23
16 November 2022

Honorary Secretary Report to AGM - 16 November 2022

Resignations

Ordinary Member's resignations during 2021/2022

The following people resigned during the year:

1. Shahzia Daya, (WECA)
2. Carrie Stoneham, Burges Salmon;
3. Nicholas Haywood, Osborne Clarke.

Ordinary Member's resignations for AGM

Ben Hanham of TLT has come to the end of his four-year term.

We thank them for all their contributions over the past year.

Co-optees and Special Members at AGM

Rakesh Singh of Keoghs also supported us as a co-opted member for part of the year.

Nominations for 2022/23

Nominations for Officers

Co-President: Erin Sawyer (Irwin Mitchell)

Co-President: Edward Thompson (Temple Bright)

Vice President: Stuart Henry (Taylor Rose)

Honorary Treasurer: Rachel Fisher (Stowe Family Law)

Honorary Secretary: Coralie McKeivor (Freeths LLP)

and Benjamin Holt will continue as Immediate Past President: Benjamin Holt (VWV)

Nominations for Ordinary Members

Benjamin Hanham of TLT LLP

Sarah Bolt of Freeths LLP

Membership

Corporate Members:

3PB

Albion Chambers

Ashfords

Barcan + Kirby

Beale & Co

Burges Salmon

BLM (now Clyde & Co)

Clarke Willmott

CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang

DAC Beachcroft

The Family Law Practice

Foot Anstey (including Enable Law)

Fussell Wright

Gregg Latchams/GL Law (now Shakespeare Martineau)

Guildhall Chambers
Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Lyons Davidson
Marc White & Co
Meade King
No5 Barristers Chambers
Osborne Clarke
Paragon Costs Solutions
Queen Square Chambers
Royds Withy King (now RWK Goodman)
Simmons & Simmons LLP
St John's Chambers
Thrings
TLT Solicitors
Unity Street Chambers
VWV
Wards Solicitors
Womble Bond Dickinson

New Corporate Members for 2021/22:

Bevan Brittan
Freeths
Ince
Michelmores

In addition to our corporate members, I am pleased to report that this year we have been joined by 2¹ Full members and 45² student members.

Coralie McKeivor
Honorary Secretary
16 November 2022

¹ We are adding one new member at November Council Meeting.

² We are adding 45 Student Member at November Council Meeting.

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2022

Executive Summary

1. The financial year end for Bristol Law Society is 30 November. The published accounts are for the year to 30 November 2021. Copies have been circulated.

2020/21

Budget

2. We continued to work through lock downs and other Covid measures during the last financial year and staff continued to work from home. We were however able to hold the annual awards dinner and we received rental income for the property.

Actuals

3. The Society made a pre-tax profit of £69,727 (including depreciation on fixed assets) as stated in the accounts. This was a significant improvement on the pre-tax loss in the previous year of £18,117 and therefore represents an excellent outcome in the circumstances of Covid lockdowns and measures which followed.
4. Income was £190,186 as against £110,957 in the preceding year, which is significantly improved due to the annual dinner which was unable to take place in 2019/2020 financial year.
5. Income profile for 20/21 includes increased subscriptions income, rental income of £22,144, and the income for the annual dinner which of course always comes with substantial costs of sales figures.
6. A Bounceback Loan remains untouched in our #2 account.
7. Expenditure was £114,601 made up of £43,013 cost of sales (increased from £1,703 in the previous year due to annual dinner) and administrative expenses of £71,588 (down from £121,849).

Conclusions

8. We made an operating profit of £75,585 and a pre-tax profit overall of £69,727 (which includes depreciation on fixed assets). This is a significantly improved position on 2019/2020.
9. We closed the year with £80,945 cash (including the Bounceback Loan).
10. We remain in a very strong position as regards the balance sheet with substantial equity in the property.
11. Despite the continued Covid related challenges BLS continued during the year to try and maintain member benefits and maximise income from the property. A varied and successful programme of online seminars was offered, and sponsorship income increased on the previous year.

12. Our now Events and Membership Executive, Chief Executive and Chairman continued to support a substantial programme which offered benefits and good value to members. Thanks are due to John Moriarty, Helen and Clair who worked extremely hard and showed great flexibility in meeting the challenges of the year with their usual spirit and commitment.

2021/22 Preview

13. We are projecting substantial profit on the year.
14. BLS continued to pay off the mortgage on the property.
15. We ended the year with substantial cash at bank including a sum in #2 Account which included full amount received under the Bounceback Loan.
16. The annual dinner was successful and profitable.

2022/23 Key Objectives

17. The property is now let on a 10 year lease with 5 year break clause.
18. Next year's budget will project a substantial profit.
19. Consideration is being given to the possibility of utilising the rental income to reduce our liabilities (mortgage).
20. Our conference programme will be reviewed with in-person events (and ticket sales) hopefully becoming a reality during 2023.

Investment/Property

As per previous reports:

21. We have converted most of our historic cash reserves into equity in property.
22. The estimated value of the property is £385,000 with outstanding mortgage of £134,000.
23. Our mortgage continues to decrease by £6-7k per year with repayments of approximately £12k per year.
24. Going forwards the lease on the property will provide income and cover expenses associated with No 12 and consideration is being given to what scope we have to reduce liabilities (BBL and mortgage) in the coming years.

Rachel Fisher
Honorary Treasurer
16 November 2022