

**Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting of
Esperanto-Asocio de Britio
March 20th, 2016,
The Gateway Centre, Liverpool**

1: Tim Owen welcomed the EAB members present, explaining that the constitution guides that in the absence of a president the vice-president chairs the AGM, but that Edmund Grimley Evans was working abroad and was therefore unable to chair. At their meeting the previous month the trustees had asked Tim Owen, in his role of secretary, to chair the AGM. He explained that the formalities of the AGM would be conducted in English as is required by the Charity Commission of England and Wales, but that members should feel free to offer comments in Esperanto should they wish to once the formalities were over.

He opened the meeting with a commemoration of the members who have passed away since the previous AGM, reading out their names, and informed the meeting that he had recently become aware that David Kelso, the former secretary of EAB who disappeared in Calabria, Italy in November 2010, had been declared legally dead. He therefore asked that the meeting observe a few moments' silence in memory of the deceased people. He then read out a list of new members who had joined since the 2015 AGM and extended a warm welcome to them.

Tim Owen explained that Paul Gubbins had stood down as a trustee because of the challenges of fitting so much Esperanto work into his very limited free time, especially since becoming a grandfather between AGMs, confirming that he was still keeping his time-intensive editorial role with the magazine *Monato*, was working on an anthology of Esperanto drama, was still going to be present teaching the drama classes at our *Somerlernejo* event, and had been re-elected to the *Akademio de Esperanto*. Tim Owen, having thanked Paul Gubbins personally and in the pages of *Update*, asked the meeting for permission to relay to him the thanks of the members for his contributions. The request was met with spontaneous applause.

Tim Owen also explained that Geoffrey King, who had been the charity's librarian for 30 years, was very ill and had returned the last boxes of books which he was cataloguing. He distributed a card to thank Geoffrey for his years of service, and asked those present who knew Geoffrey to add their names. Finally, he explained that Paul Dennett had stepped down as a trustee, and that the sole candidate for president, Ian Carter, was unable to attend because he was working away and had agreed to the contract months prior to the setting of the date for the AGM.

2: Apologies were received from Malcolm Jones, Paul Gubbins, Edmund Grimley Evans, and Ian Carter. 29 members were present, and five people were present via proxies, for a total of 34. Clare Hunter recorded the minutes of the meeting.

3: The minutes of the previous AGM from Brighton were received and approved.

4: The Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) for the year ending October 31st 2015, circulated with *Update* 73, was received. Tim Owen explained that the TAR is a document which the trustees are required to submit to the Charity Commission in order to illustrate the charitable work of the charity in the year in question and plans for the future. He underlined the importance for the charity of having trustees, and indicated that every year an article appears in *Update* re-iterating this and inviting people to approach trustees with questions should they be interested in taking on the role.

5: Clare Hunter presented the financial report, previously circulated with *Update* 73, and she read through a simplified version of the accounts.

5.1: Clare Hunter detailed elements of the charity's finances, explaining that the charity had run a surplus over the course of the financial year. After a question was received about the impact of the long-run decline in membership numbers on the financial welfare of the charity, she indicated that the subscriptions received from members were £7,000 of the charity's £89,000 income, and that the costs of printing and posting the periodicals to members were such that the net contribution of members was in the region of 3% of the charity's annual income, the great bulk (ten times the membership subscriptions) being returns from investments.

6: The decision on whether to re-appoint the independent examiner was held. Clare Hunter indicated her preference that this remain Dains LLP, and the motion to retain Dains was proposed by Hilary Chapman and seconded by John Wells. This proposal was carried unanimously.

7: Whether to change subscription rates for members was discussed. Helpful comments about simplifying membership categories and considering trialling a half-price membership for the first year were raised by Simon Whiteley. However, since the trustees hadn't looked into changing the main rate and had made no recommendation to change them, Sally Phillips and Terry Page proposed retaining them, which was carried unanimously.

8: Election of trustees: The members voted in a secret ballot. Viv O'Dunne was the vote counter, assisted by Bill Walker.

9: The floor opened up to comments, suggestion and discussions whilst the votes were counted. Several members offered viewpoints and discussion took place in English and in Esperanto.

9.1: Tim Owen raised a concern about the Butler Library, noting that, since Geoffrey King was in very poor health and Paul Dennett was no longer a volunteer worker, there was likely not to be input into it. He voiced that the responsibility for protecting the language and movement's cultural heritage should clearly fall on EAB but that there was nothing in the charity's governing document underlining this, so asked the meeting whether there was agreement that the trustees should look into formalising the curating of Esperanto's cultural heritage into EAB's object. There was widespread agreement.

9.2: Tim Owen reported that though Emma Hudson had left EAB for a full-time post elsewhere, there were no plans to recruit a replacement admin member of staff. He thanked Viv O'Dunne for absorbing Emma's work admirably and advised the meeting that the trustees were exploring the possibilities of developing a senior role within EAB, following suggestions at the previous year's AGM, to absorb much of the workload currently being carried out by the trustees themselves.

9.3: Elizabeth Stanley suggested using the website easyfundraising.org.uk. Tim Owen invited her to write something about it, which he would publish in Update.

9.4: Hilary Chapman advised the meeting that the trustees of the Norwich Jubilee Esperanto Foundation were exploring an option to fold the charity within EAB. He explained that the trust deeds for NoJEF had such rigid restrictions as to who might receive a travel grant that it was considerably difficult to find enough demand to meet supply, in spite of efforts to promote the charity.

9.5: Suggestions were received from a variety of people, including raising money with collection tins, and prospective venues for the 2018 conference if one is run to support that year's Buchanan event as has happened this year.

9.6: Tim Owen advised the meeting that the role of EAB's *Komitatano A* on UEA's committee was coming up for renewal this year. He explained that the three-year role involves joining in online discussion with other *Komitatanoj A* and attending two meetings at each *Universala Kongreso*, the *kotizo* to which is reduced by 50% by UEA, and the other 50% of which EAB will pay on behalf of the person. He asked whether anybody present in the room might be interested in the role but nobody expressed an interest.

9.7: The results for the election of the trustees were announced:

<i>Name</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
Ian Carter	52	4	4
Edmund Grimley Evans	56	1	3
Clare Hunter	57	3	0
Tim Owen	55	4	1
Ed Robertson	55	3	2

Ian Carter, Edmund Grimley Evans, Clare Hunter, Tim Owen and Ed Robertson were duly elected. Ian Carter was duly elected president.

9.8: Tim Owen thanked everybody for their attendance and contributions to a pleasant, good-natured AGM, and closed the meeting at 11:40.

Signed _____ (Print name: _____) Date: _____