

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the British Science Fiction Association Ltd will be held at:
Bread & Roses Public House, 68a Clapham Manor Street,
London SW4 6DZ

on Saturday 23rd June 2018 at 1pm 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 2017
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: A Sawyer & D Langford. Mr D Lally to be proposed as a new Director.
5. Any Other Business

**Minutes from BSFA AGM 2017
– Saturday 17th June 2017 Noon**

**Lecture Theatre 1, Blackett Laboratory Building,
Imperial College, London**

The BSFA Chair (D Bond) welcomed the attendees and chaired the meeting.

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. Apologies received from D Lally.

2) Treasurer's Report on the financial statements for year ended 30 September 2016

Martin Potts: Clearly this year's financial statements show a deficit over the year, of £1,810. On analysis this has arisen primarily due to our income having gradually fallen since peaking as a result of the London Worldcon in 2014, which flowed through to last year's results to September 2015. Members were informed at last year's AGM that the cash position would worsen over the year as this pattern has been seen before, however this time it has been more severe than previous with cash receipts having fallen 8% since 2015 and 40% since 2014, as Worldcon timed memberships were not renewed in subsequent years.

Our most significant cost is printing and the committee has responded to the cash position by keeping printing levels to a minimum and the membership secretary is continuing to chase down overdue memberships and under-paying memberships. This has helped keep ever increasing postage costs at a minimum too. We would like to remind members again that they should ensure their payment is at the current rate, there are still too many that are not. The membership secretary has started to suspend more memberships not renewed at the current rate and expect to be contacted if yours if not – the BSFA needs everyone to remit the correct funds, as you can see.

To end on a positive note, since September 2016, income is up 15% on 2016 levels with February to May showing 20% and above increases on prior year. Thus we are covering our costs and membership growth seems to be returning. This is encouraging and is helping to postpone any membership subscription increases which may have been necessary if last year's trend had continued.

3) Review of the Year, including publications report Presented by BSFA Chair Donna Scott –

2016 has certainly presented its challenges. I would like to 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 2016 going into 2017, we have struggled to meet our publication deadlines, much hampered by a couple of factors. Firstly, there were some editorial changes for Vector as Glyn Morgan stepped down and Anna McFarlane became sole editor. Secondly – and this is the major point – we still have legacy underpayment and contact updating issues which our memberships officer has been tirelessly trying to

resolve, and it got to a point where this situation had temporarily affected cashflow and delayed us in being able to send out publications that were sitting ready to go.

As everyone got their BSFA Awards booklet in time, thanks to Easter being later in the year, you might not have noticed any problems, but the payment and updating delays from members created a lot of issues for us. We tried our best to make sure people had paid in time to get the booklet and be eligible to vote in our Awards, and that their addresses were up to date. It's an expensive thing to produce, so we don't want large numbers of booklets going to old addresses.

Nonetheless, BSFA members are owed publications. In order to make the most of our available content, and help deliver the publications to which we are committed, we will shortly be emailing out BSFA Review booklets as a companion to the journals. We hope you enjoy them.

How we can speed up the process of subscription renewal or facilitate changes of address updates is something we can hopefully review. I'd like to thank Glyn and Ann, and 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, and reviews editor, Susan Oke.

The next issues will be Vector #285 and Focus #67

I must note sadly that Anna McFarlane is now stepping down as Vector editor, so we are looking into applications for a new editor and will hopefully have a new person in place by the next issue.

As stated in 2016's AGM, Alex Bardy is no longer doing layouts for Focus, and I am managing this in the interim. The post for this is also still open.

With regards the e-newsletter, I have made this semi-public, so it can be found on social media feeds. I 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 and Sheffield. The London meetings continue to do well. Susan Gray was organiser this year and was assisted by Dave Lally.

Thanks to Shana Worthen our BSFA lecture organiser for Eastercon. Thanks also to Claire Boothby for her fantastic running of the BSFA Awards and all the people who helped with the count this year. Thanks to Terry Jackman for her continued efforts running the Orbiter groups. Thank you, again, to Memberships Officer Dave Lally who has done a fabulous job of managing payment delays and increased numbers. Thanks again to Martin Potts for managing the Association's finances. Martin is stepping down as Treasurer and will be training up his replacement shortly.

Thank you Martin McCallion for managing the website. Our brave Clarke Award judges this year were Shana Worthen and Una McCormack. We are still sorting out judges for this year. If anyone fancies having a go, please let me know.

Reviews Editor (Susan Oke)

It's been an interesting year as reviews editor. First of all I want to say thank you to the hardworking and dedicated team of reviewers who consistently produce great copy for Vector. Without their enthusiasm for a diverse range of genres and authors there wouldn't be a review section in the journal. In fact, the sheer number of reviews being submitted means we have quite a backlog at the moment.

As editor, I'm striving to maintain a balance across the books and events reviewed in terms of gender and ethnicity, although it can be a challenge extracting relevant review copies from some publishers. I'm keen to include YA novels in the mix and from the next issue there will be a regular slot for a children's novel. A lot of our members are parents (or in my case a grandparent) and it's good to know what's out there for the next generation.

Despite what I said earlier, lots of publishers are keen to send books for review (occasionally without asking if we want them), which means I have a whole stack of great books waiting for keen-eyed reviewers to devour. Developments are in the pipeline to publish the backlog of reviews, so if you're interested in reviewing for the BSFA get in touch (contact details in Vector).

Events –

London Meetings (Susan Gray) - From Summer 2016, we've had interviewers from writers of all backgrounds being interviewed, along with the usual monthly raffle. In January we had a talk on the Science of Doctor Who - these talks could be a great way of mixing things up alongside the interviews. We also had readings from a selection of writers - it's something I'd like to do more often, with a range of questions being drawn out of a hat. Another idea for the future is to have a roundtable or a panel discussing upcoming awards. Our book supply isn't what it used to be - so any suggestions would be welcome. I'd like to thank all the interviewers and interviewees for their time, as well as the audience.

BSFA Awards (Clare Boothby)

General notes: The number of nominations was down on last year at all stages in the process. We discovered at the point of pricing the printing of the awards booklet that a combination of (a) extensive shorter fiction and non-fiction shortlists and (b) lots of members being behind on payments, meant that printing all the shorter fiction and the non-fiction nominees was not affordable. As extracts of all the non-fiction nominees were freely available online we printed a smaller booklet containing only the shorter fiction. The nomination process: This was the second year of the new two-stage nomination process. It continues to function well and produce a healthier shortlist than the old system. One nominee in the non-fiction category declined their nomination.

Membership – Dave Lally: This year has seen a retrenchment in membership numbers after the excellent increases (year-on-year) in the last two years. In this review I will split my comments into two distinct groups (both UK and non UK) : those who were in membership pre-and post my appointment. Those post my appointment have received on joining three communications from me. The first regarding general membership data incl Orbit Writers Group info, our website, our London Monthly meetings, our Facebook page and lots of other useful SF data/info. The second is a forwarding of our then latest BSFA NewsLetter. The third -- specific to each member-- related to their Membership Number. Almost all of these --in UK-- pay the full (ie UK£29pa) annual sub, a few pay concessionary rates. There is also a request to advise of any changes in address (electronic or postal) and to make a note re renewing one year from now. Needless to say, a no of members since 2014 neglected to either advise me of changes of address prompting mailings being returned and on contacting them by e-mail, that also bounced, they have been removed. Some of those in the group pre my appointment have no payment data on the database at all and some pay an old rate . These have now been targeted for removal unless each situation is clarified and brought up to date. In future Vectors, I intend there to be a regular "Membership Matters" column dealing with many of these on-going issues. As well as Membership Officer duties, I also assist Susan Gray in her monthly London Meetings.

Orbiter – Terry Jackman: My apologies for not being there in person. I don't have so much to say, except that it's all good. There are again 7 groups running, a mix of short story and novel, and it's been lovely to hear of members' successes this year, from a first-ever short story sale to the signing of a two-book contract.

If anyone there is interested in joining a regular, friendly and constructive critique group, just get in touch with me. As ever, my thanks go to my volunteer group leaders, who keep me sane. I really don't know what I'd do without them.

Website – Martin McCallion: No major issues this year. I have posted up there at the request of the Membership Secretary messages asking for updated address information and subscription arrears to be made before removal from the mailing list. As mentioned in previous years, I feel the website is overdue a re-design. I am not a designer but am open to suggestions. It appears from traffic reports that members use the website less than social media and this could be an area to review for greater effectiveness in directing members and interested parties to the website content in the future.

4) Elections

The following officer was duly re-elected: S R Jeffrey. When the second officer D Bond was offered for re-election there ensued a discussion concerning a challenge wishing to be made by the member G Earley for the position of Chair of the BSFA currently held by D Bond. An initial vote was taken whereby D Bond's re-election was not approved, however, once the Company Secretary explained to the members at the meeting that D Bond's re-election as Director did not automatically remove her as Chair it was put to the members that D Bond's re-election be re-proposed, which it duly was and D Bond was re-elected as a Director.

5) AOB

James White Award – M Potts reported that Martin McGrath had once again passed on his thanks to the BSFA for its continued support of the James White Award Short Story Competition.

Chair of the BSFA - One member, G Earley, took the opportunity to speak to the members of the meeting requesting that he be appointed to the position of Chair of the BSFA, a position currently occupied by D Bond. The Company Secretary confirmed that he had received a number of proxy votes appointing G Earley as proxy and a written proposal from a member proposing G Earley for the position of Chair. Such an occurrence was unprecedented in the experience of the current Board and the AGM was briefly adjourned to allow a Committee meeting to take place to consider the situation. When the Committee returned and the meeting reconvened, it was reported by the Company Secretary that the Committee wished for D Bond and G Earley to address the meeting to present their respective cases for their occupancy of the position to provide the members with more information. Mr Earley outlined his views regarding the current leadership of the BSFA and his proposals for change, especially regarding the enhancement of the BSFA's website. D Bond then outlined her vision for the BSFA and her leadership approach since accepting the position and her plans for the direction of the BSFA. The members were allowed to briefly question each candidate after their presentations. The AGM was briefly adjourned a second time for the committee to discuss again the situation and discuss with Mr Earley directly his concerns and proposals. On reconvening the AGM the Company Secretary reported that Mr Earley had withdrawn his proposal for election as Chair at this meeting and that the Committee had decided that Mr Earley be proposed to the members as a Director of the Board with primary responsibility for the website. A vote was taken and Mr Earley was duly appointed as a Director subject to the usual lodging of documents at Companies House.

No further business, meeting closed