

Minutes of the Birmingham Medal Society Annual General Meeting held at The Holiday Inn, Great Barr, Birmingham. Thursday 7th April 2022.

22 Members present – (four by Zoom)

1. **Welcome:** The President, Roger Bragger welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** 11 noted separately.
3. **Minutes of the 2021 (Zoom) AGM 1st April 2021:** Proposed by John Scott seconded by Danny Rees – approved unanimously.
4. **Combined President's and Secretary's Report:** See Appendix A below. Proposed by Chris Newton seconded by Mark Platt. Approved unanimously.
5. **Financial Report:** See Appendix B below. Proposed by Dave Waters seconded by Ken Weston. Approved unanimously.
6. **Election of Officers:** John Scott took the chair and advised the meeting that as Roger Bragger's term of office had come to an end (serving four years rather than the usual three because of the Coronavirus pandemic) it had been agreed the new President for 2022-25 would be Paul Handford MBE.

Paul took the chair and thanked the meeting for their confidence in him and stated what an honour it was to be asked to fulfil this role, after 58 years in existence he realised he had a lot of good examples to follow. Paul also thanks Roger for his four years in office, the latter period being blighted by the pandemic and the need to meet by zoom.

Paul then advised that former President Philip Wilson had offered his resignation from the committee and that John Scot wished to stand down as Librarian and Archivist but remain on the committee.

Nominations for the vacancy were called for and Danny Rees was proposed by Martin Harrison seconded by John Scott – approved unanimously. (*Sec note: Danny has agreed to become the Librarian and Archivist*).

The remainder of the committee were elected on masse, proposed by Danny Rees, seconded by Mark Platt. Committee for 2022-23:

President	-	Paul Handford MBE
Vice President	-	Roger Bragger
Secretary	-	Dr Chris Davies
Speaker Secretary	-	Martin Harrison
Treasurer	-	Mark Platt
Librarian and Archivist	-	Danny Rees
Committee	-	Su Handford QPM
Committee	-	Chris Newton
Committee	-	Dave Seeney
Committee	-	John Scott
Committee	-	Chris Burns

7. **Members Subscriptions:** Mark Platt explained that as the future meeting locations were still uncertain, it would be advisable to delay any decision on the subscription rate for 2022-23 until we were more settled. Agreed - to be discussed at the next committee meeting. Phil McDermott confirmed that Worcester Medal Services would continue to sponsor BMS and pay for the venue. For which he was thanked by the President.

8. **BMS Volunteers for Talks:** Martin Harrison explained that speakers were booked until July 2023. He was now looking for volunteers for 2023-24. Priority will be given to BMS members wishing to speak. The 2022-23 Programme will be available soon in the usual card format.

9. Any Other Business: President's Cup to be held at the next meeting 5 May 22. However, Paul Handford suggested we not make it a firm commitment until the meeting location had been confirmed. John Scott, Roger Bragger, Danny Rees, Martin Harrison and Dave Seeney (in absentia) agreed to display, thus meeting the minimum of four exhibits requirement. *(Sec note HI Bromsgrove has now been confirmed and PC will take place at meeting of 5 May 22)*

Next Committee meeting agreed for Thursday 5th May 2022 at 1600h, immediately before the next meeting at a location to be decided. *(Sec Note: HI Bromsgrove confirmed and room booked by Sec Chris Davies).*

Following the meeting the evenings speaker Phil McDermott gave his presentation, The Platinum Jubilee Medal.

APPENDIX A.

BMS AGM Combined President and Secretary's Report April 2021-March 2022

Roger Bragger and Chris Davies.

This is a short summary of the BMS activities and developments between the dates listed above.

It has been another challenging year for the society with seven 'ZOOM' and five face-to-face meetings. For example, our last two ZOOM meetings were beset by technical issues whereas our face-to-face meetings had difficulty because of limited venue availability. Your Committee will continue to reconsider venue options as there remains some uncertainty of current Holiday Inn arrangements. Let's say we have done the best we can as an organisation over the last two years but recognise a degree of 'ZOOM' fatigue has developed and also that the BMS thrives best in small group meeting format.

Thanks!

We would like to thank all planned and impromptu contributors to all our meetings this year!! Also, we are grateful to Phil McDermott of Worcester Medals for ongoing sponsorship of the Holiday Inn meeting rooms for the Society; Danny Rees for maintaining the BMS Facebook page and BMS Whatsapp group administration [all members are welcome to join this grouping]; Martin Harrison for BMS website administration; Dave Seeney for BMS ZOOM administration and Social ZOOM arrangements and Chris Davies for various secretarial functions.

List of BMS meetings as follows:

- 1.4.21 ZOOM 'AGM and Members Own/Recent Acquisitions'.
 - 6.5.21 ZOOM 'The History of the DCM. Medals from the Hill Collection' by Christopher Mellor-Hill.
 - 3.6.21 ZOOM 'Remembering Captain F.A.Ninis MC, Cheshire Regiment - A late casualty in the Salonika Campaign' by Chris Davies.
 - 1.7.21 'ZOOM' 'Friends of the Family – A Story of Research' by Martin Harrison.
 - 5.8.21 HIGB 'Members' Own/Recent Acquisitions'.
 - 2.9.21 HIGB 'Members' Own/Recent Acquisitions'.
 - 7.10.21 HIGB '1938 Markham Colliery Pit Disaster' by Paul Murray.
 - 4.11.21 HIBromsgrove Drummond Lecture 'Battlefield Identification of Casualties' by Nicola Nash of JCCC.
 - 2.12.21 HIBromsgrove 'The Brave Cuirassier' by Mick Atkinson.
 - 6.1.22 ZOOM 'Members' Own /Recent Acquisitions'
 - 3.2.22 ZOOM 'The Platinum Jubilee Medal' by Phil McDermott – Meeting rescheduled for 7.4.22.
 - 3.3.22 ZOOM ; The Great War in Africa Part I' by Christopher Mellor-Hill – Meeting to be rescheduled for 2023.
- Overall stats for meetings, five were face-to-face, seven were 'ZOOM' of which two were abandoned.

Meeting attendance stats:

Average ZOOM attendance = 15 [based on 5 meetings: range 11-22 attendees]: average face-to-face meeting attendance = 18 [5 meetings: range 17-20 attendees].

Meeting notes:

As you know from earlier email correspondence, our meeting notes are now recorded in two parts. The short BMS monthly agenda report is in the **Members' only** section of our webpage [www.birminghammedalsociety.com]. Our main meeting notes are posted **in the public domain if contributor[s] consent to this** but will otherwise be found in the **Members' only** section. The secretary will

record apologies just as the number received for the purposes of the website. Apologies will still be recorded in hard copy form on the monthly attendance sheet.

No ZOOM social meeting notes are kept.

Membership Statistics/Information:

Total Membership stands at 35 of whom three are honorary.

This year, we are delighted to welcome three new members - Zita Ballinger-Fletcher a new overseas member, Wing Commander Steve Mills and Commander Bob Symons. On a sad note, we report the passing of longstanding Honorary Member Roy Painter in October, 2021.

We have had no GDPR breaches in the last year.

Equipment:

In late 2021, the society purchased its own new laptop and necessary software. This will be a BMS simplification for any member or guest talks or contributions.

New BMS Member Role: 'Speaker Secretary':

This new important role had been discussed in 2021 and approved at Committee. The post is held by Martin Harrison who has planned out our next 18 months or so of meetings which will be made available once formally approved. He is maintaining a list of reserve speakers and talks which are available at short notice should they needed. [Please let Martin know if you can offer this].

Roger Bragger and Chris Davies

Typed 25-29 March, 2022

Chris Davies

BMS Secretary.

APPENDIX B.

Treasurers Report 2021 - 22

The society started the year with a credit balance for the society totalling £4960.35

Income for the Year

Membership Fees	£125.00
Book Sales	£165.00
Total	£290.00

Expenditure for the year

Society Laptop	£720.00
Book Purchase	£152.38
Printing	£30.00
Website Costs	£14.87
Zoom Subs	£143.88
Other costs	£40.00
Total	£1101.13

In 2021 Worcester Medals continued with their sponsorship of the BMS and covered the venue costs and Initial Zoom subscription greatly reducing the overheads of the Society. A nominal BMS membership fee and little activity within the societies and limited face to face meetings reduced income to £290.00.

The committee frustrated with IT issues agreed to purchase a Laptop and the associated software for the use of members at meetings contributing to costs this year totalling £1101.13 and consequently the society funds were reduced by £811.13

Total funds available to the Society as at the 31st December 2021

Current Account	£3800.02
Savings Account	£304.95
Cash	£44.25
Total	£4149.22

Mark Platt Treasurer