

## Minutes of the BBHSCA 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at Rothamsted Conference Centre, Harpenden, AL5 2JQ on Monday 22 May 2023 at 19.00

### Present:

Brian Allin	Penelope Barr	Stephen Clarke	Julian Daly
Philip Dean	Arnold Donn	Finlay Everington	Sally Ferguson
Lucy Ghawss	Diana Godden	James Johnson	Darren Jordan
Amy Lednor	Angela Peden	John Sheehan	Tania Wright

### Virtual attendees

Andrew Mead	Andrew Williamson
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### Apologies received from:

Derek Blair	Crystal Boston	Emma Elkington	Andrew Guntert
Michael Hardman	Christina Makhoul		

### By Proxy:

Derek Blair	Crystal Boston	Emma Elkington	Andrew Guntert
Christina Makhoul			

### In attendance:

Kate Binks	Meghan Doyle	Kim Shield	Elizabeth Williams
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### Guests

Gareth Winters, caba

- Darren Jordan, BBH President**, welcomed all present to the Annual General Meeting and introduced himself and the Officers present, Deputy-President Lucy Ghawss, Vice-President Finlay Everington, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary Brian Allin, ICAEW Council Members Julian Daly (newly elected from June 2023), Andrew Mead, John Sheehan and Andrew Williamson. He asked if the Notice of the Meeting (at page 6) could be taken as read. This was agreed.
- Apologies and Proxy Forms received**  
Those received have been recorded above.
- Minutes of the 53<sup>rd</sup> AGM held on Tuesday 24 May 2022**  
Darren Jordan called on Lucy Ghawss to propose the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 24 May 2022 be confirmed. Finlay Everington seconded the proposal and Darren Jordan asked those present to confirm by a show of hands:-  
Votes for = all  
Votes against = 0  
Abstentions = 0

## **Darren Jordan, Outgoing President's report:**

Firstly I would like to thank all of the active volunteers within our District Society.

We have our Management Committee, Belonging and Supporting and Education and Training committees that are all supported by some dedicated and excellent people. Special mention should go to Julian Daly, John Sheehan and Andrew Mead for their support this year.

The focus of my presidency was to start a social mobility initiative supported by a local Charity, Working Options and our local contacts. We have made progress and are now connecting local schools in BBH with good local Authorised Training Employers to provide insights into a career as a chartered accountant. I hope to continue with this initiative over the next 12 months to see how we can build on our first year's work. The idea is to attract people into the profession from lower social economic backgrounds to help address the talent shortage we have at the moment but also improve diversity within our profession.

Continuing with the diversity theme, I was delighted with my annual dinner and again thank you to all involved in helping make that a success, a special mention goes to Andrew Williamson for helping to secure such an engaging and inspiring speak, David Clarke.

In terms of maintaining and building our network around the country and within our district either myself or Lucy have been able to attend various different Annual Dinners, we have continued with our full CPD programme and various events focusing on different member interests and profiles. One new event added to the calendar in July last year, was a BBQ for younger members at St Michaels Manor, which was a great success. We wish to build on this, so for this year we are hosting the BBQ with our district student society.

Finally, as some members will know, ICAEW are looking to formalise further arrangements between District Societies around the country and ICAEW centrally. We are continuing to discuss with ICAEW the form and content of these arrangements but like nearly all district societies, we expect to move to becoming a local network of ICAEW rather than a third party district society.

The purpose of the change is to reduce administration of the local DS's but retaining all of the member activities and potentially increasing them and collaboration and sharing of best practice. Effectively allowing active members to focus their time on engaging members. Whilst this all sounds great, the devil is always in the detail and so we are waiting for more detail to be shared before we can proceed further. Once we have enough information, we can share this with members so all of us can look at the implications and make an informed decision.

#### **4. Approval of the Society's Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

Darren Jordan asked members if they had any queries in relation to the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Various queries raised by Arnold Donn were responded to by Brian Allin and members of the Management Committee after which the adoption of the accounts was proposed by Brian Allin and seconded by Lucy Ghawss. Darren Jordan asked those present to confirm the adoption of the accounts by a show of hands:-

Votes for = all

Votes against = 0

Abstentions = 0

## 5. Re-appointment of Independent Examiners

The re-appointment of Stoten Gillam and acceptance of their quote of £2,350 plus VAT for the Independent Examination of the 2023 Accounts was proposed by Brian Allin and seconded by Lucy Ghawss. Darren Jordan asked those present to confirm the appointment by a show of hands:-

Votes for = all  
Votes against = 0  
Abstentions = 0

## 6. Election of members nominated for the Management Committee

Completed nomination forms to serve on the Committee have been received from:

Crystal Boston  
Finlay Everington  
Paul Hingston

In accordance with the Rules of the Society, the number of persons willing to stand for appointment has not exceeded the number of vacancies, and the stated persons are therefore deemed to be elected.

## 7. Amendments to the Constitution

Darren Jordan asked the meeting for approval to make amendments to the Society's Constitution as outlined in the draft papers and asked those present to confirm the changes by a show of hands:-

Votes for = all  
Votes against = 0  
Abstentions = 0

## 8. District Society Officers for 2023/2024

Darren Jordan announced the officers for the year ahead:

<b>President:</b>	Lucy Ghawss
<b>Deputy-President:</b>	Finlay Everington
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Vacant
<b>Treasurer and Honorary Secretary:</b>	Brian Allin

The Treasurer will be confirmed at the first meeting of the Society's management committee as per the Society's Rule 12 b).

Lucy Ghawss asked the Management Committee members to note that the next meeting will take place on Monday 19 June 2023 at 18:00 at the office of Rayner Essex, Faulkner House, Victoria Street, St. Albans, AL1 3SE.

## 9. Lucy Ghawss, Incoming President's welcome speech:

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Lucy Ghawss, and I am an Audit Director at a traditional firm of accountants called Rayner Essex, with offices in both St. Albans and London with around 90 staff.

**So why get involved in the district society** - I was asked recently why I decided to get involved in the district society, and the truthful answer was because a partner in my firm asked me to, nicely of course, and I said yes.

I went along to a management committee meeting a couple of years ago to find out what it was all about. Firstly, I couldn't believe how much the District Society does and how many wonderful volunteers we have that are truly passionate about making

a difference, but most importantly for me – I loved the fact that they were building a community of local Chartered Accountants that can really support and look out for one another.

One of the objectives of the District Society is to support the ICAEW with their strategic themes and following on from Darren's drive for Social Mobility I am also very passionate about strengthening the profession by attracting talent and building diversity.

I often think accountancy can still be perceived as fairly male dominated and let's face it, sometimes walking into a room full of accountants can feel a bit scary!

Personally, I have really been encouraged over the years to just 'be myself' and that is the best advice I can give to any training accountant, try not to be someone you are not and simply 'be you.' This encouragement has turned into a real desire to see more young people and particularly young women increase their confidence in the accountancy world, both within my firm and across the district society.

The committee have supported me to set up a 'BBH Women's Network' where we host sessions such as 'Returning to work after maternity' and 'how to deal with the imposter syndrome' and we hope to continue these types of events in the coming years, not just to women but across the board.

We are also delighted to welcome Finlay Everington, who is keen to bridge the gap between the student society and the district society and has already got off the ground running by driving forward this year's younger members BBQ by hosting this year's event jointly with the Student Society.

**caba & wellbeing** - One final area I did want to mention was Wellbeing - I believe that Wellbeing is one of the most important stepping stones to not only attracting but keeping new fresh talent.

We need show that we are normal humans who need to be looked after and like to have fun, and not just robots – I mean we haven't been taken over by AI just yet! This leads me to introduce you to Gareth Winters, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at caba. caba is a charity that's purpose is to support chartered accounts. A big thank you for coming all the way from Coventry! Gareth is going to give us some industry insights, let us know all about the support caba provide but also would like to have an open discussion and hear back from you all of us.

Before I pass you over to Gareth I just wanted to say thank you to my predecessor presidents Julian and Darren for supporting me over the past few years along with the management committee, but a particular mention and thank you to Kim Shield who has been so incredibly supportive and held my hand all the way.

Does anyone have any questions? If not, I will formally close the AGM and move onto tonight's event.

Lucy Ghawss announced the close of the AGM.

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**Darren Jordan**  
**President and Chair, 2022/2023**

## **Post AGM caba presentation and discussion**

After the formalities Gareth Winters, Head of Stakeholder Engagement at caba, provided an overview of caba and how they can support ICAEW Chartered Accountants and their family and their upcoming campaigns and activity. He then hosted an interactive discussion on emerging trends within the profession.

[caba: we're here for you](#)



## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 22 May 2023 at 19:00 at Rothamsted Conference Centre,  
West Common, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2JQ**

**Open to all members of the District Society in person or via a virtual link**

Notice is hereby given that the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the ICAEW Beds Bucks & Herts Society of Chartered Accountants (BBHSCA) will be held on Monday 22 May 2023, starting at 19:00 as laid down in the Society's Rules (Rule 21: Notice of Meetings). It is open to all members of the District Society and you can attend either in person or via a virtual link or by completing and returning a proxy form.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. To read the notice of the meeting
2. To read apologies for absence
3. To confirm the Minutes for the last Annual General Meeting held on 24 May 2022 which can be found at [icaew.com/bbhagm](https://icaew.com/bbhagm)
4. To approve the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which can be found at [icaew.com/bbhagm](https://icaew.com/bbhagm)
5. To appoint Independent Examiners for 2023 and to approve their fees
6. To elect members nominated for appointment to the Management Committee
7. To confirm the amendments to the Society's Constitution which can be found at [icaew.com/bbhagm](https://icaew.com/bbhagm)

The existing rules of the society and proxy form are available at [icaew.com/bbhagm](https://icaew.com/bbhagm) or you can contact Kim Shield at [kim.shield@icaew.com](mailto:kim.shield@icaew.com) or call +44 (0)1223 654 682 for a copy.

The AGM is open to all members of the District Society and is free to attend. Please book online at [icaew.com/bbhevents](https://icaew.com/bbhevents) or email [kim.shield@icaew.com](mailto:kim.shield@icaew.com) or call +44 (0)1223 654 682.

**Brian Allin**  
**BBHSCA Treasurer and Honorary Secretary**  
**13 February 2023**