



# AGM MINUTES

## Minutes of the BBHSCA 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at Rothamsted Conference Centre, Harpenden, AL5 2JQ on Monday 13 May 2024 at 19.00

### Present:

Brian Allin	Crystal Boston	Ben Brophy	Julian Daly
Philip Dean	Lucy Ghawss	Andrew Guntert	James Johnson
Darren Jordan	Salman Maqbool	Andrew Mead	Angela Peden
John Sheehan	Gerry So	Henry Wallis	Tania Wright

### Virtual attendees

Paul Hingston	Hiral Kanzaria	Simba Mareverwa
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### Apologies received from:

Christina Makhoul	Diana Godden	Keith Chaudhary	Clifford Bygrave
Sarah Redden			

### By Proxy:

Keith Chaudhary	Sarah Redden
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### In attendance:

Kate Binks	Elizabeth Williams	Meghan Doyle (Virtual)
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### Guests

George Bruce, Duncan Bruce	Kim Shield
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- 1. Lucy Ghawss, BBH President**, welcomed all present to the Annual General Meeting and introduced herself and the Officers present, Deputy-President Julian Daly, Vice-President Ben Brophy, Treasurer Brian Allin, Honorary Secretary Crystal Boston together with ICAEW Council Members Julian Daly, Andrew Mead and John Sheehan. She asked if the Notice of the Meeting (at page 6) could be taken as read. This was agreed.
- 2. Apologies and Proxy Forms received**  
Those received have been recorded above.
- 3. Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 22 May 2023**  
Lucy Ghawss called on Julian Daly to propose the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 22 May 2023 be confirmed. Ben Brophy seconded the proposal and Lucy Ghawss asked those present to confirm by a show of hands:-  
Votes for = all  
Votes against = 0  
Abstentions = 0

## **Lucy Ghawss, Outgoing President's report:**

Firstly, a really big thank you for having me as your president this year. And what a year it's been!

I just want to start by briefly touching on the District Society Review.

I do have to say that I do hope this is the last time I ever have to talk to you all about this...

That said, we are really proud to announce that we were the first District Society to have voted at our EGM to remain an Independent District Society.

This gives us both the opportunity to work closely with the ICAEW with the added flexibility to support our local members in ever-changing environments.

A big thank you in particular to Julian, John and Andrew for taking such great care with this as it has involved a lot of time and effort, however I will leave Julian to touch further on this.

Whilst this has been going on behind the scenes, I am proud of that all of our regular member activities have continued to run throughout the District Society. In July we held our second students and young members BBQ with increased engagement with both.

We have connected with CABA to help focus on wellbeing and mental health in our profession.

This year, I have personally most enjoyed taking part in our new BBH one on one mentorship scheme working closely with students from lower socio-economic backgrounds from the University of Hertfordshire. Just last week I received an email from my mentee saying she had secured an ACA training contract at a local firm. If you'd like to know more about my experience and it is something which may interest you in the future, please come and speak to me at the reception afterwards.

Overall, I am most thankful for the opportunity to set up our women networking group, for the personal development that being a BBH volunteer provides but mostly for the connections and relationships I have built.

I would encourage any younger women, whether or not you feel ready to get involved, to just go for it. You will be surrounded by encouragement from the committee and other volunteers, and for that I am extremely grateful.

Finally, as some of you are aware, Kim Shield, the absolute driving force of the society recently left the ICAEW. Please join us for drinks afterwards when we will have a small presentation to thank Kim for everything she has done for this society.

Just as a final thank you, to Kate and Elizabeth for all your hard work and commitment to us as a society.

## **4. Approval of the Society's Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

Lucy Ghawss asked members if they had any queries in relation to the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Brian Allin and seconded by Lucy Ghawss. Lucy Ghawss 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 £2,450 plus VAT for the Independent Examination of the 2024 Accounts was proposed by Brian Allin and seconded by Julian Daly. This is the last year we can reappoint them as they are due for reconsideration in 2025. Lucy Ghawss 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:

Brian Allin

Ben Brophy

Julian Daly

Salman Maqbool

Simbarashe Mareverwa

Gerry So was co-opted

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

Lucy Ghawss 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

Lucy Ghawss announced the officers for the year ahead:

**President:**

Julian Daly

**Deputy-President:**

Ben Brophy

**Vice-President:**

Simbarashe Mareverwa

**Honorary Treasurer:**

Brian Allin

**Honorary Secretary**

Crystal Boston

The Treasurer will be confirmed at the first meeting of the Society's management committee as per the Society's Rule 12 b). Brian Allin announced his intention to stand down as Treasurer during the coming year and invited any members present who would like further information about the role to speak to him

Julian Daly asked the Management Committee members to note that the next meeting will take place on Monday 17 June 2024 at 18:00 at the office of FKCA, 260-270 Great Marlings, Butterfield Business Park, Luton, LU2 8DL  
<https://www.fkca.co.uk/contact/>

## 9. Julian Daly, Incoming President's welcome speech:

Good evening.

I promised Lucy to keep this short, so here goes.

I am Julian Daly, a member in Business.

For those who don't know me, I qualified with KPMG in London and spent a couple of years in their Long Island, New York office.

I then moved to be CFO of Oppenheimer International, a US investment bank's London subsidiary, spent a spell as Finance Director of a software business, before becoming Finance Director of Close Brothers' Asset Management Division

I am now at a spin off from Close Brothers, investing circa £0.7bn in UK commercial property for institutional client.

I have also been a member of the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and Leader of St Albans City and District Council.

Last June I joined the ICAEW's Council as one of your representatives.

Unusually I have already had the honour of being your President. I took over from Andrew Williamson in October 2020 and stood down in May 2021 after a period much impacted by Covid.

So why am I here again?

Most of you will be aware that like the Thames Valley and South East District Societies, we have voted to remain an independent Society. Your Management Committee expect there will be some turbulence as we and the ICAEW work out exactly what this entails.

For example, we are still negotiating our Service level Agreement with the ICAEW team.

I put myself forward to help steer the Society through that turbulence and hopefully set things up for a clean handover to Ben this time next year. If nothing else, I know my way around the ICAEW better than I did the first time around.

When I first stood up to be your President, I set out my take on our "sense of purpose".

I do not think that this has changed and see it as being:

- to act as a link between ICAEW strategy and its members;
- to provide Continuing Professional Development (physical, more than virtual);
- to put on events & networking opportunities;
- to promote the Chartered Accountant qualification.

Despite the 'independence' vote, we remain the ICAEW's boots on the ground. So, I will support continued delivery of our programme of training and events while we sort out a more arm's length relationship with the ICAEW.

Ben, Simba and I plan to work together to roll forward the Society's existing 3 year plan.

If you have ideas on new events we should put on, or ways we can improve what we do, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Finally thank you to Lucy for her successful year as President and a big thank you to Kim Shield for her years of excellent support to all of us as members.

I look forward in working for and with you.

Julian Daly announced the close of the AGM.

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**Lucy Ghawss**  
**President and Chair, 2023/2024**

### **Post AGM AI Panel Discussion**

After the formalities Ben Brophy chaired a discussion on AI with guest panellists Angela Peden, Darren Jordan and George Duncan.

# Beds, Bucks & Herts Society of Chartered Accountants

## ***NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

**Monday 13 May 2024 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 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Beds, Bucks & Herts Society of Chartered Accountants (BBHSCA) will be held on Monday 13 May 2024, 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 22 May 2023 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 15 November 2023 which can be found at [icaew.com/bbhagm](https://icaew.com/bbhagm)
4. To approve the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 which can be found at [icaew.com/bbhagm](https://icaew.com/bbhagm)
5. To appoint Independent Examiners for 2024 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.



**Crystal Boston**  
**BBHSCA Honorary Secretary**  
**12 February 2024**