

19th Annual General Meeting
Brisbane Seniors Online Association Inc
held at 1.30 pm on Thursday 22nd October 2020
via Zoom

MINUTES

The meeting was opened by Brian Korner acting as Chair.

1. Attendance

The Chair noted that 17 members were required to form a quorum for the AGM to meet BSOL's constitutional requirement of twice the number of Management Committee members plus one. Brian Korner welcomed 20 members to the meeting via Zoom.

2. Apologies

3 apologies were recorded.

3. Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting held 26th October 2019

There was no business arising from the Minutes of 2019 so Colin Waugh moved that they be accepted as a true and accurate record. George Covacin seconded the motion and it was carried.

4. President's Report

Membership

In his report Colin indicated membership numbers at 564 learners and 170 mentors at the beginning of the year with the latest figures showing 430 learners and 133 mentors. Covid-19 has had an impact here of course as mentoring was discontinued for some time initially. Some mentoring is now taking place under Covid restriction guidelines.

The year has also seen changes in HC roles. Carol Grimley returned as HC for North Hub and Linda Daniels has replaced Judith Salvage-Jones who retired as HC of South Hub.

We also farewelled our Office Manager, Peter Henttonen and we thank Peter for a job well done. Les Webb has taken over from Peter.

Publicity

Dick Bennett has been working hard in this area on many fronts. Since Covid-19, however, his job has been made more difficult with the transition of many local newspapers to a digital format. Dick has approached local councillors and has managed to obtain several very useful grants.

He has also secured 3 weeks of free ads on radio station 4BC. We note that Publicity is in sure hands under Dick's direction and we thank him for his efforts on BSOL's behalf.

IT

IT is run by a small group of willing volunteers consisting of Colin Waugh, Ron Horst, Mal Gamble, Gary Alcorn and Steve Dixon.

MIS

The replacement of the old MIS was undertaken this year under the direction of Ron Horst and Gary Alcorn with input from the HCs as to bug reporting. This was finalised late in 2020 and has been a massive project for which the MC wishes to thank Ron and Gary.

WEB

Under Paul Boult, the previous IT manager, a project to upgrade the BSOL web site was undertaken using WordPress. This was continued by Colin Waugh when the old web site crashed over the Christmas break. Much of the old information, which was very out of date, was removed and we now have a new, streamlined web site which still provides all the access members and visitors require.

Facebook

The BSOL Facebook page has been revitalized under the direction of Steve Dixon with help from Ron Horst and there has been a resurgence in activity as a result. Several new Mentors have come directly from viewing our Facebook page.

Servers

A project to get all data on to a central server was undertaken by Mal Gamble with considerable assistance from Gary Alcorn. As a result, the hard drives were replaced, a new backup system incorporated and new server software added. Mal has pointed out that an upgrade to the NBN, which is imminent, should address some slow speeds being experienced at the moment.

News and Views

We have had three editors for the Newsletter in the last year with Lee Ellwood resigning early in the year to be replaced by Cathy Bay who advised that she would be moving on mid-year. Simon Mooney answered a call for assistance and has taken over the role with the newsletter moving to a web-based format which is delivered via Mailchimp. The new version of the newsletter has been well received.

Corona

The current pandemic has certainly had a great impact on the way BSOL is currently run. Initially the office was closed and was run remotely. All face to face teaching was cancelled and SIG meetings were either cancelled or held via applications such as Zoom. Since restrictions have been eased some teaching has resumed or is being done via such apps as TeamViewer and meetings including Management Committee meetings and of course this AGM are being held using Zoom. The future is uncertain but we have managed to adapt and remain viable.

Management Committee

The committee started the year with 8 members but sadly, in the latter part of 2020 Hugh Wiseman resigned due to ill health and lost his battle with cancer on 23rd September. Ron Horst represented BSOL at the service for Hugh. In closing Colin thanked both the outgoing and the incoming Management Committee and advised that he would be still involved with some ongoing projects in the year to come. He wished Ron Horst, as the incoming President all the best for 2021.

5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements

The treasurer Jonathan Smith experienced some technical difficulties and dropped out of the meeting so Ron Horst presented Jonathan's Treasurer's report. The report noted that revenue raised from subscriptions was 48% of last year's. Expenditure on advertising was down but up on System Development by \$12,400 owing to work on the new MIS.

Revenue from subscriptions looks set to remain down whilst we are still in the Covid environment but publicity is back in full swing under Dick Bennett's leadership. All accounts are reconciled and have been audited by George and Ridgeway, Public Accountants.

Ron Horst moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved, and this was seconded by Steve Dixon. The motion was carried.

On matters arising from the Treasurer's report Pat Noad asked were we viable as an organisation. Ron answered the question by pointing out that we still have over \$75,000 in the bank which would see us through the next 4 to 5 years at least.

Dick Bennett noted that since he has taken over the reigns of the Publicity department, he has been successful in raising money from various grants and his application for a significant grant from the Brisbane City Council has been accepted.

Steve Dixon also brought up the Be Connected organisation which could be a possible source of funds. This was discussed at greater length under Other Business.

6. Receive and Consider the Auditor's Report

There being no issues with the Auditor's Report Ron moved that the Audited Financial Statements be approved, and this was seconded by Kevin Brown. The motion was carried.

Colin moved that George and Ridgeway be appointed as auditors for the next 12 months and Sue Green seconded the motion which was carried.

7. Appointments to the Management Committee

All positions on the Management Committee were declared vacant and the following nominees proposed. There were no contested positions.

Appointment	Nominee	Nominator	Seconder
President	Ronald Horst	Ethna Brown	Kevin Brown
Vice-President			
Treasurer	Jonathan Smith	Ethna Brown	Colin Waugh
Secretary	Ethna Brown	Ronald Horst	Richard Bennett
Member	Kevin Brown	Colin Waugh	Ethna Brown
Member	Richard Bennett	Kevin Brown	Ethna Brown
Member	Les Webb	Ronald Horst	Gary Alcorn

As there were no nominations for the position of Vice-President Brian asked for nominations from the floor but as none was forthcoming the position was declared vacant.

8. Election of Executive and other Members of the Management Committee

The Chair advised the meeting that as there were no contested positions the nominees were appointed by acclamation. A round of applause was given for the new committee.

9. Any other Business that may properly be brought forward – questions from the floor

1. **Radio Advertising.** Dick Bennett noted that he was not approaching any other radio stations just at the moment as he did not want to upset 4BC who had been generous enough to give us some free advertising over 3 weeks in October but that he would consider approaching other stations in the future.
2. **Motion of thanks to Colin and Dick.** Jill Duffield proposed a motion of thanks to Colin Waugh and Dick Bennett for their services to BSOL in 2020.
3. **Be Connected.** Paul Gorell asked about the Be Connected program. This was addressed by Steve Dixon who outlined some of the ways in which BSOL could benefit

from applying for money from such an organisation. Ron Horst pointed out that this had been discussed at length by the Management Committee in 2019 but one of the major stumbling blocks had been the fact that we would be unable to charge for our services. Steve offered his services to the MC to pursue this further.

There being no other business, the AGM closed at 2:30 pm.

Ethna Brown
Secretary

Ronald Horst
President