

**MINUTES OF THE 1st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of THE BRITAIN-NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL TRUST
HELD on THURSDAY 16th JULY 2009 at 3PM at
THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE, PARK PLACE, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON SW1A**

Trustees Present: D.R. Reeves, Esq., MBE (Chairman) [In the Chair]
Professor L.J. Bown, OBE
D.K.O. Brandler, Esq.
G.M. Clark, Esq. (Secretary)
A.J. Green, Esq.
Chief D.H. Griffin (Vice Chairman)
J.R. Lee, Esq. (Treasurer)
B. Oladimeji, Esq.
K.M. Rafferty, Esq. (Membership Secretary)
A.R.P. Williams, Esq.

and 25 Members.

Item 1

Welcome.

Mr Derek Reeves MBE, Chairman and in the Chair, welcomed members to the first Annual General Meeting of The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust and opened the proceedings at 15.06pm. He warmly introduced Mr Peter Banner OBE, Chairman of the Business Council for Africa, West & Southern, as Guest Speaker who was to address the audience at the close of the Meeting.

The Chairman then acknowledged the presence of Mr Alex Afari, the international sales and marketing officer for Arik Air International who were corporate members and who had most generously sponsored the day's event. Those present demonstrated their appreciation.

Apologies were given by the Chairman for the Patron, Sir Mervyn Brown, KCMG OBE and His Excellency Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, the Nigeria High Commissioner both of whom were unable to attend.

The Chairman then gave a brief history about the formation of the Trust which was established in May 2007 and became a registered charity on 17th September 2007, replacing The Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Memorial Trust. He continued:

"Now as a membership charity we were, at the end of 2007, pleased to welcome many members from the Britain-Nigeria Association, which closed at the end of August that year. Particularly it is appropriate to acknowledge the support of BNA's President, Mr John Storey and its Executive Committee (several of whom are now Trustees), under the chairmanship of Mr David Brandler, who did so much to ensure the smooth transfer of assets to BNET. The principles upon which the BNA was founded are today perpetuated by The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust whose object is to promote friendship and understanding between Britain and Nigeria through financial support for Nigerian education."

Item 2

Apologies for Absence.

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from two Trustees, General (Dr) YD Gowon and Mr JCP Storey, and from 45 members of the Trust.

Item 3

To Receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Mr DR Reeves presented his report as follows: -

“My report covers the period from when BNET was established in 2007 until 31 December 2008 during which more than £70,000 was spent (or committed) on a diverse and extensive programme of aid in support for Nigerian education. Many of the projects had, of course, already been commissioned by The Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Memorial Trust.

Phase one of the ‘E-Learning Centre’ project at Benin University comprising the installation 50 computers and ancillary equipment was completed in 2007 and an inspection visit undertaken by one of the Trustees. A further grant of £ 7,960 was made during 2008 to establish Internet Connectivity and to provide access to the eGranary digital library at the University of Iowa and for other educational software. A review for further funding to expand the centre by another 50 computers will be undertaken in 2009.

The construction of proposed girls’ secondary school at Umutu, within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Warri, continued to progress. A three-classroom block is nearing completion and a hostel block capable of accommodating 60 students has been finished. Grants totalling £ 34,870 were made during the year supported by agreed budget subject to the provision of counter-party funding and satisfactory progress reports. The school management is now in place and it is anticipated the school will accept its first intake of students during 2009.

A grant of £5,000 was allocated to the Gethsemane Rehabilitation Centre, in Jos, which was set up to help with the education of children orphaned by their fathers killed while serving in the Nigerian army mainly on African peace-keeping missions. The charity Hope for the African Village Child received £2,500 for learning books and other educational materials.

The Trust continued to sponsor the placement of a VSO volunteer (£2,000) seconded to the Kano State Education Board while £5,000 was made available through VSO’s Abuja office for allocation as small grants for basic school equipment. A further £2,500 was given as a contribution to the cost of VSO’s local training seminars.

The development of teaching skills is one of our key objectives and in 2007 the Tafawa Balewa Teacher Training Award Scheme was launched through the National Teachers Institute, Kaduna (NTI). With their co-operation BNET sponsored one teacher from every State to upgrade their skills and qualifications through courses run by the NTI. The first intake of 37 teachers has just graduated achieving a rewarding 89% success level. BNET is now committing to its second sponsorship for a further 37 teachers which will cost approximately £7,000 per annum for the next three years.

The Aleka Academy continues to go from strength to strength with the graduation of their third set of 32 students. A £7,500 grant was given to establish a bore hole for the supply of water to the school & surrounding village community.

Three Nigerian students have been awarded continuing grants in respect of their fees at Delta State University (2) and Anambra State University (1). A fourth student, who gained admission to Sheffield Hallam University, received a grant to cover the cost of his study materials while a fifth student studying at the University of Birmingham was given a laptop computer to assist with his fieldwork studies in both Nigeria and Kenya.

In July 2008 Sir Mervyn Brown, KCMG, OBE, who was the British High Commissioner in Nigeria for four and a half years (1979-1983), accepted the invitation to become Patron of the Trust. Sir Mervyn was a teacher before he joined the Foreign Office and maintained an interest in education becoming a Trustee of St. Saviour's School in Lagos. After retirement he became a Vice-President of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council and consultant to the Council of British Schools in the European Community.

At the beginning of the year the Trust welcomed 423 transferring members from The Britain-Nigeria Association. A further seventeen new members have joined and, after adjusting for resigning members and those who had died, the closing membership strength ended at 395. Additionally the Trust was pleased to have the support of six corporate

members. Three functions were voluntarily arranged namely a lunch meeting for Sussex Branch in May, a meeting in Edinburgh in October for the Scottish Branch and a London reception in November that was hosted by the Nigeria High Commissioner. Each of these events generated a modest profit and I thank our two tireless regional organisers, Ros and Ian Kerry in Edinburgh and Alastair Burr in Sussex for all their hard work and commitment to making these events so successful.

The Trust's website was established during the year and it now not only attracts new members but also provides an opportunity to promote a limited range of merchandise for sale, including Notelets and Christmas cards, the latter generating a very welcomed additional income.

BNET is managed by a Board of 14 Trustees, and I acknowledge with appreciation their support and immense contribution to our progress over the last year. However, there have been some changes amongst the Trustees this year. Dick Clarke, who had served in various capacities for both the BNA and the Trust over the last twenty years, decided it was time to retire and tendered his resignation effective from April. John Smith, the former Treasurer of the BNA, has also resigned and I am grateful to them both for all they have done for BNET. Garba Zakari, who was the Nigeria High Commissioner's representative, also retired following his promotion to Head of the Consular Section. He was succeeded by the High Commissioner himself who wished to a Trustee, amply demonstrating the strong support and valued bond that exists between the Trust and the Nigeria High Commission. We have also welcomed Mr Anthony Green, Group Chairman of PZ Cussons plc who brings a wealth of experience to the Board.

Our registered offices remain at 2 Vincent Street ably manned as always by Frances Tarr.

I thank you for your attention and will be happy to answer any questions."

There were no questions and Mrs GE Cole proposed and Chief (Mrs) MB Etim seconded the Chairman's Report be **Noted** and this was agreed by all members present.

Item 4

To Receive the Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2008.

The Treasurer, Mr JR Lee, presented his report on the Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2008 and gave an explanation for its more detailed format, which was to ensure conformity to the rules and regulations of the Charities Commission. He asked members to remember the figures covered the period from when the Trust was formed 16 months ago.

The Statement of Financial Activities showed total incoming resources of £696,636 of which £83,291 were assets transferred from The Britain-Nigeria Association and £572,765 from The Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Memorial Trust. Subscriptions from members raised £6,564 while £25,691 had been derived through investments.

Resources expended included £84,290 given in support of the Trust's charitable activities while governance costs for the period totalled £6,680. After taking into account Net unrealised losses of £18,161 on investments the Fund balance stood at £585,958 at the year-end.

There being no discussion Mr DKO Brandler proposed and Mr G Davidson seconded the audited Accounts for 2008 be **Approved**. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

Item 5

Appointment of Auditors.

The Treasurer advised that Messrs Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP had signified their willingness to continue as Auditors of the Association. Mr C Ente proposed and Professor LJ Bown, OBE seconded that Messrs Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP be **re-appointed** Auditors for the ensuing year and members present agreed unanimously.

Item 6

Election of Trustees.

Under Clause 5(9) of the Constitution of the Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust, one third of the Board of Trustees retire annually at the Annual General Meeting. Those due to retire at this Annual General Meeting were Professor LJ Bown, OBE, Mr GM Clark, Mr AJ Green, Chief DH Griffin and Mr A Oladimeji who, all being eligible and having signified their willingness to serve again, were prepared to be re-elected.

The Chairman recommended that all five be **re-elected en bloc** and on the proposal of Miss D. Martin and seconded by Lady J. Atako-Gregory it was unanimously agreed that all five named members of the Board be **re-appointed** Trustees.

Item 7

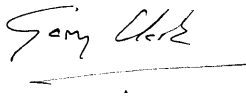
To Consider Any Other Business.

The Secretary reported there were no items of business for which notice had been given.

Item 8

Closure.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.42pm and thanked members for their attendance and participation.



G.M. Clark
Secretary

D.R. Reeves, MBE
Chairman