

**MINUTES OF THE 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of THE BRITAIN-NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL TRUST
HELD on THURSDAY 14th JULY 2011 at 3.30pm 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)
T. Cooke, Esq.
Chief D.H. Griffin (Vice Chairman)
J.R. Lee, Esq. (Treasurer)
B. Oladimeji, Esq.
K.M. Rafferty, Esq. (Membership Secretary)

and 25 Members with 5 guests.

Item 1 Welcome.

Mr Derek Reeves MBE, Chairman and in the Chair, welcomed members to the third Annual General Meeting of The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust and **opened** the proceedings at 3.30pm precisely. He acknowledged Mr Bashir Musa, who was representing His Excellency the Nigeria High Commissioner, and introduced Rev. Samuel Onose as a special guest who was to give a talk about the progress of the Girls' school in Umutu at the close of the Meeting. Mr Greg Ojieh, Resident Representative Nigeria who was to follow this with an illustrated update about the E-learning Centre at Benin University, was also welcomed.

Apologies were given by the Chairman for the Patron, Sir Mervyn Brown, KCMG OBE who was unable to attend.

Item 2 Apologies for Absence.

The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from four Trustees, namely R. Fulford-Brown, Esq., Professor G.L. Furniss, BA PhD (London), General (Dr) YD Gowon and H.E. Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, and from 49 members of the Trust whose names have been recorded.

Item 3 To Receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Mr DR Reeves, MBE presented his report, which is reproduced in full hereunder: -

"Everyone will have received a copy of Report and Accounts, which includes the formal Chairman's Report, so I will assume that everyone has read it and take this opportunity to add a few general comments and also update a few areas.

The economic downturn has led us to a decision to use what we have in support of existing projects and, as a temporary measure, not take on any new ones. Our policy continues to be to spend our income (derived from subscriptions and interest earned on our capital) but we also allow ourselves to use capital when we need larger sums.

This has been a very important year for Nigeria. Presidential elections went well in terms of organisation and result but unfortunately were recently marred by a considerable amount of what can only be described as terrorist activities, which have led to far too many unfortunate deaths. The Government is tackling the problem vigorously and will I am sure restore the situation.

There are however more than enough positives to out-weigh any negatives such as this. International recognition is growing quite rapidly (as it should). Infrastructure is a major

thrust by the President and improvements are already appearing. All of this gives us increased confidence in the future for the projects which we support.

We continue to have the same strategic objectives and as such we prioritise as much as possible projects which help train and develop teachers at all levels. Hence the funding which we give to the National Teachers Institute in support of the upgrading of teachers in each State. We have recently made a further grant to enable a further 37 teachers to join the scheme – thus bringing the total beneficiaries to 111.

Another very important initiative is the establishment of a visiting professorship at Ibadan. We are doing this in conjunction with the Commonwealth Scholarship Plan and will shortly be announcing the selected candidate.

All of the key projects are outlined in the formal report. Uniben makes slower progress than we should like but, thanks to the efforts of Greg Ojieh, Tim Cooke and David Brandler, we are gradually getting there.

Umutu has moved along at a good pace since the return of Father Sam Onose to oversee the project on behalf of a new – and much more supportive – Bishop. Father Sam has come today as a special guest and will give a short talk later.

Our thanks go in particular to Tim Cooke who went to see our major projects on a very successful visit to Nigeria earlier this year and to Greg Ojieh who has continued to oversee our activities there.

During the year we moved our office to the Africa Centre. Shortly after we got there we were advised that the trustees of the Centre were selling it to a developer and a good deal of uncertainty has ensued. We are liaising with all concerned – particularly the BCA – and hope the matter will be settled fairly soon.

I take this opportunity to thank all of my fellow Trustees for all the inputs, which they have made over the year and in particular our Secretary, Gary Clark, who, bears the brunt of all our work. I thank you for your attention and will be happy to answer any questions.”

There were no questions and Miss D. Martin proposed and Mrs G.E. Cole 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 2010.

The Treasurer, Mr JR Lee, presented his report on the Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2010 and explained that as the year-on-year figures were both for a 12-month period it was possible to make reasoned comparisons.

The Statement of Financial Activities showed total incoming resources of £18,963 (2009 - £28,392) of which only £225 (2009 - £7,853) was through donations while subscriptions from members, including Gift Aid refunds, raised £7,797 (2009 - £6,394). Investment income and bank interest generated £5,445 (2009 - £9,037) and the sale of Christmas cards further £2,762 (2009 - £3,336).

Resources expended totalled £116,745 (2009 - £41,320) which included £111,224 (2009 - £35,056) disbursed in support of the Trust's charitable activities. Governance costs for the period lower at £4,808 (2009 - £5,465). After taking into account Net unrealised gains of £4,385 on investments the Fund balance stood at £490,586 (2009 - £583,983) at the year-end.

The Treasurer explained why, in the present economic climate, £338,000 had been moved into a CAF fixed deposit Bond.

After further discussion and explanation Mr B Shodeke proposed and Professor L.J. Bown, OBE seconded the report of the Treasurer and Statement of Financial Activities for 2010 be **Approved**. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

Item 5 **Appointment of Independent Examiners.**

The Treasurer confirmed that Messrs Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP had signified their willingness to continue as Independent Examiners of the Trust and proposed they be **re-appointed** for the ensuing year. Mr KM Rafferty seconded the motion 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 Mr DKO Brandler, General (Dr) YD Gowon. Mr KM Rafferty and Mr DR Reeves, MBE who, all being eligible and having signified their willingness to serve again, were prepared to be re-elected.

As the Chairman was one of those to be re-elected the Vice Chairman, Chief DH Griffin took the Chair and recommended that all four be **re-elected en bloc**. On his proposal and seconded by Professor LJ Bown, OBE this was unanimously agreed. The Vice Chairman then proposed and Chief RI Walters seconded that the four named members of the Board be **re-appointed** Trustees and the motion was carried by a show of hands.

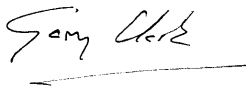
Having completed this Item of business Chief DH Griffin handed the Chair back to the Chairman and congratulated him on his re-election.

Item 7 **To Consider Any Other Business.**

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

Item 8 **Closure.**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.55pm and thanked members for their attendance and participation.



G.M. Clark
Secretary

D.R. Reeves, MBE
Chairman