

**MINUTES OF THE 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of THE BRITAIN-NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL TRUST
HELD on THURSDAY 18th JULY 2013 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]
Dr. M. Anderson
Professor L.J. Bown, OBE
D.K.O. Brandler, Esq. (Vice Chairman)
G.M. Clark, Esq. (Secretary)
T. Cooke, Esq.
J.R. Lee, Esq. (Treasurer)
B. Oladimeji, Esq.
K.M. Rafferty, Esq. (Membership Secretary)

and 32 Members and guests.

Item 1 Welcome.

Mr Derek Reeves MBE, Chairman and in the Chair, warmly welcomed members to the fifth Annual General Meeting of The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust and **opened** the proceedings at 3.30pm precisely. He introduced Professor Kabiru Isyaku, OON, mni as a very senior educationalist in Nigeria who had helped considerably in establishing BNET's scheme that provides grants for teachers to upgrade their qualifications through courses run by the Nigeria Teachers' Institute, Kaduna.

The Chairman then introduced Mr Jonathan Howard, Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council for Africa, West & Southern and thanked him for their support during the recent office move from the Africa Centre to Europoint House. Finally the Chairman welcomed Mr Kaye Whiteman as the guest speaker who after the formal proceedings would give a talk about Lagos, City of Imagination.

For the benefit of those members present the Chairman then asked each Trustee to stand and be recognised.

Item 2 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were given by the Chairman for the Patron, Sir Mervyn Brown, KCMG OBE who was unable to attend. The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from four Trustees namely Mr SA Ademeli representing the Nigeria High Commissioner, Ms E Oritsejolomi Dudley, Professor GL Furniss, BA PhD FBA OBE and General (Dr) YD Gowon, BA PhD and from 30 members of the Trust whose names had 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: -

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sure you will all know that the business conducted at this meeting is basically that which is contained in the Report and Accounts. It has, however, become customary for me to give a brief update on what has happened during the six months since the end of the last financial year - i.e. 2012.

I always hesitate to say anything about the general situation in Nigeria if only because many of you know it better than I do. It is however our main area of activity so we have to have a view on the situation.

Nigeria is a very complex subject but we think that overall the feeling is that matters are gradually improving in-country. There are some weaker areas such as security – where progress is erratic and Boko Haram is now recognised as the second largest security threat in the world despite strong measures being put in place particularly in the North. The Government is trying very hard to overcome the long-standing problems of power generation and provision but this is taking quite a lot longer than had been hoped. It has recently been recognised that there is a growing foreign debt problem, which is aggravated by a downturn in the oil industry and the revenue that can be generated from it. It will be interesting to see how this will affect future budgets for the nation.

Let me now turn to an update on our activities.

We are making good progress in our dealings with Edo College, Benin and King's College, Lagos each with whom we have established a major project that will be financed by the donation we received last year. As Greg Ojieh will be speaking after the AGM and reporting on the progress at each College I will not steal his thunder! – other than to say that Edo have made major efforts and achieved a lot more than King's. – but we are getting there!

Our other major project – the Girls School at Umutu – is making slow but sure progress and we have recently approved a further grant of £26,000 to them to pay for a fully equipped science block. In addition an annual grant of £4,000 has been set aside to fund a scholarship for the top two students from each of the two host communities who freely provided the land upon which the school has been built.

We should not forget that in addition to these major projects we have a number of much smaller ones, which are just as important to us. We continue to support them to the best of our financial ability and so far this year minor grants totalling £21,000 have already been released.

You will remember we have established a fellowship at the University of Ibadan. We are doing this in conjunction with the Association of Commonwealth Universities. The first appointment we made was awarded to one of our own members, Dr Simon Heap, and this was a considerable success. Unfortunately the University has been somewhat slower than we might like in appointing a second fellow but this is in hand.

Simon did a lot of work in the University history library. One of his recommendations when he returned was that we should try to help replenish their dwindling stock of reference books. This we have now done with an amount of just over £5 thousand. We are grateful to Simon for the work that he did not only in establishing and agreeing the list of books with the librarians but also to source them. The books are at this moment en route to the University.

In conclusion I should like to thank – on your behalf – all of our Trustees who do such a great deal of work on a voluntary basis. Particularly it gives me much pleasure to report that two have been recognised in their own right for the work they do – Professor Lalage Bown who has been further honoured with the award of a Distinguished Africanist by The Africanist Society in the UK and Professor Graham Furniss who has been appointed OBE for his work in higher education and scholarship. Unfortunately he is unable to be here today as it coincides with the graduation ceremonies at his University.

We have also appointed a new trustee, Dr Mary Anderson. Mary has been involved in language education for more than three decades, in both the academic and publishing fields. Her doctorate from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London was a study of the Fulfulde/Fulani language of Northern Nigeria based on several years as a research fellow at Bayero University, Kano. More recently she moved in to the world of educational publishing, commissioning a series of books for the Oxford University Press in Africa (specifically Nigeria and Cameroon.)

Recognising the need to identify events that will appeal to you, our members, Ugo Arinzeh has very kindly agreed to be our London Organiser and I am confident it will not be long before she brings to your notice a new function.

And lastly I should like to mention our Secretary, Gary Clark. He is the man who administers everything we do and keeps us all – particularly me – on the straight and narrow!!

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

In the absence of any questions Ms Daphne Martin proposed and Chief Robert I. Walters 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 2012.

The Treasurer, Mr JR Lee, presented his report on the Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2012. He explained that while there had been little improvement in the UK economic climate, the level of income had been increased substantially over 2011 by an anonymous donation of £999,985. This money was classified as ‘Restricted Funds’ since it was specifically designated for the benefit of Kings College Lagos and Edo College Benin. As income in the year totalled £1,007,937, exceeding the Charity Commission’s benchmark of £500,000, it had been necessary to have a full audit of the accounts the additional cost of which had been debited to the Colleges Development Fund. It was anticipated income in 2013 would be below £500,000 and audit practice would revert to independent examination.

In consequence of the donation income generated through bank interest and other investments rose by 65.8% to £14,603 while membership subscriptions and other donations generated £7,452 (2011 - £10,306).

Resources expended totalled £79,542 (2011- £72,746) of which £59,979 was disbursed in support of the Trust’s charitable activities (2011 - £48,191). Governance costs for the period were £3,571 (2011 - £3,491) and did not reflect the cost of liability insurance due to a delayed payment. Total support costs rose by 5.9% to £25,963 (2011 - £24,555).

After taking into account a Net unrealised gain of £5,289 on investments (2011 - loss of £580) the combined Fund balance closed at £1,369,743 (2011 - £435,800).

In line with the requirements of the Charity Commission, BNET spent more in 2012 than it received and ran a £58,931 deficit of its Unrestricted funds.

After further discussion and explanation Professor Lalage Bown proposed and Mr Kevin Rafferty seconded the report of the Treasurer and Statement of Financial Activities for 2012 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 Anthony Williams 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 Tim Cooke, Professor Graham Furniss and Mr John Lee, who, all being eligible and having signified their willingness to serve again, were prepared to be re-elected.

The Chair recommended that all three be **re-elected en bloc**. On his proposal and seconded by Mr Samuel Okeiyi this was unanimously agreed. Mr Peter Edwards then proposed and Mr Kevin Rafferty seconded that the three named members of the Board be **re-appointed** Trustees and the motion was carried by a show of hands.

Item 7

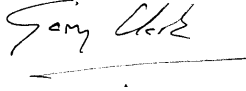
To Consider Any Other Business.

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 3:58pm and thanked members for their attendance and participation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.M. Clark", with a horizontal line underneath.

G.M. Clark
Secretary

D.R. Reeves, MBE
Chairman