

**MINUTES OF THE 7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of THE BRITAIN-NIGERIA EDUCATIONAL TRUST
HELD on THURSDAY 23rd JULY 2015 at 4.00pm at
THE ROYAL OVER-SEAS LEAGUE, PARK PLACE, ST. JAMES'S STREET, LONDON SW1A**

Trustees Present:	D.K.O. Brandler, Esq.	(Chairman)	[In the Chair]
	Dr. M. Anderson		
	Professor L.J. Bown, OBE		
	G.M. Clark, Esq.	(Secretary)	
	T. Cooke, Esq.		
	Miss Elizabeth Oritsejolomi Dudley	(Events Co-ordinator)	
	D. Fatunla, Esq.		
	Professor G.L. Furniss, BA PhD FBA OBE		
	H.M. Hassan, Esq.		
	J.R. Lee, Esq.	(Treasurer)	
	A. Oladimeji, Esq.		
	K.M. Rafferty, Esq.	(Membership Secretary)	
	D.R. Reeves, Esq., MBE	(Vice Patron)	

Members Present:

Chief & Chief(Mrs) G.S. Adebayo
Mr. M. Adeyeye
Mr. E. Akanni
Lady (Mrs) J. Atako-Gregory
Miss Jean Degenhardt
Mr. & Mrs. D.H. Doble
Mr Dele Fatayi-Williams
Chief D.H. Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. E.F. Hill
Mrs Jane Hughes
Professor Kabiru Isyaku, OON, mni
Mr. P.G. Large
Mrs. Rita Odumosu
Mr. S.C. Okeiyi
Mrs G. Olowu
Mr. D.A. Sawyer
Mr. A. Shillingford
Mrs S Smith
Chief Robert I. Walters
Mr. A.R.P. Williams

Item 1

Welcome.

Mr David Brandler, Chairman and in the Chair, warmly welcomed members to the seventh Annual General Meeting of The Britain-Nigeria Educational Trust and **opened** the proceedings at 4.00pm precisely. He then introduced the Trust's members from Nigeria namely Engineer Greg Ojieh, Resident Representative, Mr Dele Fatayi-Williams, Project Co-ordinator and Professor Kabiru Isyaku, OON, mni who is a senior member of the Faculty of Education at Bayero University and thanked them for attending.

The Chairman acknowledged the presence of Chief David Griffin, former Vice Chairman of BNET, Brigadier Hamish McGregor, CBE, MC a former Trustee and Mr Anthony Williams who for many years was BNET's Treasurer. Mr Dele Fatunla was welcomed as the Board's newest Trustee having been appointed last February and all other Trustees present were introduced.

Lastly the Chairman introduced those seated on the top table namely Mr John Lee, Treasurer, Mr Gary Clark, Secretary and Mr Derek Reeves MBE, Vice Patron.

Item 2 Apologies for Absence.

The Chairman gave apologies for the Patron, Sir Mervyn Brown, KCMG OBE and HE Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, CFR both of who were unable to attend. The Secretary reported that apologies had been received from Trustees General (Dr) YD Gowon, BA PhD and Mr JAF Howard and from 39 members of the Trust whose names had been recorded.

Item 3 To Receive the Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Mr DKO Brandler presented his report, which is reproduced in full hereunder: -

"A detailed report on the activities of the Trust last year is presented in the published Report and Accounts for 2014, and every member has been sent a copy of this. So let me start my Report by giving you an update on what has been happening since then.

As was reported at the last AGM, Edo College has been completed and is in use. There remains only to try to set up a Scholarship Scheme and make arrangements for the provision of a Maintenance Fund. King's, Lagos is still to be completed. Greg Ojieh will give us a fuller update on the building projects at King's College Lagos and Edo College Benin at the end of this meeting.

We continue to support the NTI – National Teachers Institute – by funding one teacher from each of the 36 States to upgrade their qualifications by completing the Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) course. We also award a cash prize of N50,000 to the most successful candidate at the end of their three years. This year I attended the ceremony in Kaduna to award the prize in person to the successful candidate – Lucy Ohugboche of Benue State. The recording of that presentation may be viewed on our Facebook Page and website.

We completed the building and equipping of the Donald Partridge Science Laboratory at the Immaculate Conception Girls School, Umutu, Edo State and, together with Greg Ojieh and Dele Fatayi-Williams, I attended the commissioning ceremony in January. We were greeted and entertained by the staff and girls who put on an impressive show of dancing. Again you can see pictures of this on our website and Facebook page.

I am glad to report this project, which we started in 2008 together with the Catholic Diocese of Warri, is now completed as far as BNET is concerned. We have spent over £120,000 thanks to the legacy from Donald Partridge and we now have a flourishing boarding school in this rural area of Edo State registered for the WAEC exams with almost 100 girls and certainly more than that in the next academic year. After a slow and shaky start this has been a genuine success story for both the school and for BNET.

Other projects I wish to mention are:

We continue to support Hope for the Village Child Foundation, which supports rural schools in Kaduna State. Together with Worldreader, an American charity that specialises in providing Kindles or iPad tablets for African schools loaded with reading and textbooks tailored specifically for them, we are donating 35 tablets to the Foundation. They are currently agreeing the list of books they want from Worldreader and we expect the tablets to be shipped to Kaduna in September in time for the new academic year.

This is an exciting initiative we think can be developed by BNET elsewhere in Nigeria. To provide schools with tablets that carry hundreds of curriculum textbooks as well as general reading books is a cheaper and more efficient way to build up school libraries. It encourages children to use tablets which surely will be an educational norm in the coming years and enables schools to access many more books and information than otherwise would be possible.

For example, we now support a small after hours E-learning Centre in Agbado, Agege, Lagos run on a voluntary basis. About 30 primary school children attend for free on weekends where they read and learn using Kindles with reading material partly from Worldreader and partly chosen and downloaded from the Internet by the owner. This lady was using her local church premises as a classroom and the Trust has now donated £1,000 to the Centre to move into and repair an unused classroom block at the local school.

Umutu too has asked if we can assist them to build and equip a library for their school. Buying say 50 tablets and downloading 300-400 titles on each tablet would be a quicker, cheaper and more efficient long term way to do that.

Last year we reported the delays we experienced before we were able to award a second BNET Commonwealth Fellowship at Ibadan University under the auspices of the ACU (Association of Commonwealth Universities). This year together with the ACU who are sharing some of the financing, we are changing tack somewhat and are planning to sponsor visiting external examiners from the Commonwealth to attend two Nigerian universities. I expect to give more information on that in next year's report.

Generally, we have identified Teacher Training as BNET's priority. Encouraging and improving the standard the standard of one teacher in Nigeria potentially gives a better education to the hundreds or more children he or she can inspire.

However, identifying projects to benefit teacher training is not easy. As I mentioned at the beginning of my report, we sponsor teachers through the NTI. We are also examining a proposal in Kano State from VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas), who would be project managers, to improve the quality of ICT teaching in secondary schools. This is so important if children are to acquire the necessary skills to get good jobs when they leave school.

Finally, I wish to update you on the Trustee's deliberations on the future of BNET. As was raised in last year's report, funding for the Trust will become a critical issue once the large 'windfall' donations we received have been spent. Income from membership subscriptions barely covers the running costs. Nevertheless we believe the work we do genuinely benefits those in Nigeria we can reach. We will actively look for projects that we consider will improve educational opportunities for ordinary Nigerian children, which are viable, which can be properly managed and where the goals are realistically achievable. At the same time we will actively need to look for exterior funding to assist us realise such projects. The Trust needs to divide its resources between these two objectives to ensure we can match them. Not an easy task but one which we must succeed in for the Trust to continue, which we all want.

I would like to thank all my fellow Trustees for their dedication and input, Frances Tarr our Administrator and Karen Sussex who is responsible for organising and updating BNET's website and Facebook pages.

Special thanks too to Greg Ojeh our Representative in Nigeria and my appreciation for the work Dele Fatayi-Williams in Lagos and Professor Kabiru Isyaku in Kano have done for the Trust over the last twelve months. All three have taken the trouble to be here today.

Most importantly I must thank Derek Reeves for all he has done for the Trust since he became Chairman but as there will be another opportunity later in today's programme I will save my tribute until then. Suffice it to say his are large shoes I must try to fill and I take comfort knowing he will continue to be available with advice or guidance when needed in his new role of Vice Patron.

Lastly, let me thank Gary Clark as Secretary for his tireless and conscientious work on behalf of BNET. As the new Chairman and indeed as Derek himself knows well, the Trusts is largely dependant on Gary for ensuring its work and administration runs smoothly. On

more than one occasion the Trustees have had to veto attempts by Gary to talk about his own retirement and certainly maintaining that veto is my number one priority as the new Chairman!

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

Mr Eddie Hill commended BNET for the quality and content of its regular *Nigeria Digest* newsletter and asked that member's appreciation be passed on to its Editor John Rivett and be recorded in the Minutes. Everyone present endorsed this request.

In the absence of any further questions or comment **Professor Lalage Bown, OBE** proposed and **Lady Janet Atako-Gregory** 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 2014.

The Treasurer, Mr JR Lee, presented his report on the Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2014. He explained it was still necessary to separate the financial resources into Restricted and Unrestricted funds, those restricted having been anonymously donated for the specific benefit of Kings College, Lagos and Edo College, Benin.

Income for the year was solely Unrestricted and totalled £20,977 of which membership subscriptions, Gift Aid refunds and donations had generated £9,166 (2013 - £12,908). Investment income and bank interest had reduced significantly to £8,398 (2013 - £18,128).

Restricted resources expended totalled £570,079 of which £177,500 went to the Edo College project and £242,683 was released to the Kings College project to cover design fees and construction costs. A provision of £142,298 had been made to fund Scholarship schemes at both Colleges while management and support expenses totalled £7,598.

Unrestricted resources expended amounted to £51,879 (2013 - £91,190) of which £46,648 was disbursed in support of the Trust's charitable activities (2013 - £86,477). Governance costs for the period were £4,385 (2013 - £4,023) while total support costs fell by 21.6% to £14,877 (2013 - £18,992).

After taking into account a Net unrealised gain of £6,120 on investments (2013 - gain of £5,978) the combined Fund balance closed at £481,332 (2013 - £1,076,193).

In line with the requirements of the Charity Commission, BNET spent more in 2014 than it received and ran a £24,782 deficit of its Unrestricted funds.

Before closing the Treasurer explained that the full set of accounts were available for viewing on both the Charity Commission and BNET websites.

There being no questions **Mr Samuel Okeiyi** proposed and **Mr Kevin Rafferty** seconded the report of the Treasurer and Statement of Financial Activities for 2014 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 Gary Clark, Miss Elizabeth Oritsejolomi Dudley, Mr

Dele Meiji Fatunla and Mr 'Bayo Oladimeji, who, all being eligible and having signified their willingness to serve again, were prepared to be re-elected.

The Chair recommended that all four be **re-elected en bloc**. On his proposal and seconded by **Mr Samuel Okeiyi** this was unanimously agreed. **Chief Robert I Walters** then proposed and **Professor Lalage Bown, OBE** seconded that the four 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.

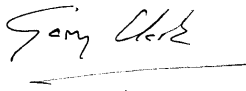
The Secretary reported there were no items of other business for which notice had been given.

Professor Lalage Bown speaking on behalf of those present commended the Nigeria team namely Greg Ojeh, Dele Fatayi-Williams and Professor Kabiru Isyaku for their dedication and hard work in the successful management of the Trust's projects and asked that the appreciation of the members be recorded in the Minutes.

Item 8

Closure.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 4:23pm and thanked members for their attendance and participation.



G.M. Clark
Secretary

D.K.O. Brandler
Chairman