

Abridged Minutes – BHS Board of Trustees
Thursday, 11 July 2024

Meeting	Election Board Meeting
Date	Thursday, 11 July 2024
Time	10:00 – 12:00
Venue	The Board Room, BHS HQ, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2XZ

Minute Agenda Item & Discussion

1. Declaration of the 2024 Trustee Election Results

The Chair declared the results of the 2024 Trustee Elections:

Karen Silcock was re-elected as Generalist Trustee with Financial Knowledge for a second term of three years.

Samantha (Sam) Gregory was elected as Generalist Trustee.

The Trustees noted their sincere thanks to Kerryn Haynes for her knowledge, experience and immense contribution during her three-year term as Generalist Trustee. They also noted their thanks to all the candidates for their support of the Society and for their participation in the trustee election.

2. Confirmation of Trustee Co-options for 2024/25

The Chair advised that Professor Tim Morris, Beverley Simms, and The Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman CBE had agreed to be co-opted for a further year to the following positions:

Specialist Trustee for Welfare – Professor Tim Morris

Specialist Trustee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) – Beverley Simms

Specialist Trustee for Policy, Campaigning and Government Relations – The Rt. Hon. Dame Caroline Spelman CBE

3. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Thursday, 25 April 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2024 were agreed to be a true reflection by the Trustees.

4. Matters Arising from the Board meeting held on Thursday, 25 April 2024

The matters arising from the meeting held on 25 April 2024 were noted as complete.

5. Abridged Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Thursday, 25 April 2024

The abridged minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2024 were approved for publication on the BHS website.

6. Conflicts of Interest

There were not any new conflicts of interest to declare.

7. Report from the Audit Committee Meeting (17 June 2024)

The minutes of the Audit Committee meeting that took place on 17th June 2024 were distributed for pre-reading in advance of the meeting. The Chair commented that it is a great committee, with very engaged members that have complimentary skillsets. At the meeting, the Chair reported to the Committee that the Board of Trustees is operating efficiently, and that reporting from the Executive is effective, enabling the Trustees to focus on the most appropriate matters.

The Director of Finance and Company Secretary advised that the Committee had received a positive report from RSM, our Independent Auditors on the audit of the statutory accounts and annual report for the year ending 31 December 2023. Ultimately, the Committee agreed that they had discharged their duties in terms of recommending the annual report and statutory accounts to the Board of Trustee for approval.

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8. Annual Report & Statutory Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2024

The Director of Finance and Company Secretary advised that the minor points arising from the Audit Committee meeting had been addressed in the final copy of the annual report and statutory accounts distributed in advance of the meeting to the Board of Trustees, which includes the overall results of the group, including the trading subsidiaries, BHS Qualifications and BHS Trading Company.

The annual report and financial statements have been subject to scrutiny internally, by the auditors, the Audit Committee and by extension the Chair of the Board and the Chair of the Finance Committee who are on the Committee.

There was extensive discussion regarding the change in government to the Labour party. The discussion was, in the main, around the development of grey belt which could affect a large number of riding schools and equestrian businesses. It was agreed that the opportunities and challenges associated with a change in government will be added as a formal agenda item for a future meeting.

The Board of Trustees' thanks to all those involved with the development and audit of the annual report and financial statements.

Resolution: The Board of Trustees approved the annual report and financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2023.

9. Brand Development

The Trustees received an update on brand development work underway within the Society.

10. Any Other Business

a. Isle of Man Committee

The Director of Finance and Company Secretary reminded the Trustees that they had signed forms earlier in the year to register the British Horse Society as a Charity in the Isle of Man. The application was not successful as the Society must first register as an overseas company under Manx Law, for which there is a nominal fee each year to be on the register. It is considered worthwhile to register as an overseas company in order to register as an overseas charity to ensure that the BHS is fully compliant should its activities on the Isle of Man continue to grow. The Director of Finance and Company Secretary has discussed the structure and governance with the Attorney General's Office and they are convinced that the BHS has a genuine and significant connection to the Island. If the Trustees agree, the Director of Finance and Company Secretary will commence the process of registering as an overseas company in order to complete the overseas charity registration.

Resolution: The Board of Trustees agreed that the British Horse Society should be registered as an overseas company in order to be able to register as an overseas charity.

b. Thank you to Duncan Snook

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Tim Lord said some words of thanks to Duncan Snook (DS) for his support to the Board, his professionalism, and the wider role he has played within the organisation during his time as Director of Finance and Company Secretary. To mark his retirement, the Board of Trustees gave DS a gift.