



The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing

BENEVOLENT FUND

MINUTES OF THE BENEVOLENT FUND AGM

HELD ON THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2011

AT BINDT, NEWTON BUILDING, NORTHAMPTON

Present:	Mr P Wallace (Chairman)	Mr J Heigold
	Dr I Baillie	Mr A Hunscomb
	Mr J Buckley	Mr P Kolbe
	Ms C Bull	Mr S J Lavender
	Dr R K Chapman	Mr R F Lyon
	Mrs P Connington	Mr R McCarroll
	Mr A Crawford	Mr P Milligan
	Mr M R Dawson	Mr K Quirk
	Mr A K Dunhill	Mr K Sharp
	Mr C Forrester	Dr R A Smith
	Mr M E Gallagher	Mr J R Thompson
	Dr W E Gardner	Mr B Webb
	Mr D Gilbert	Mr W Woodhead
	Mr K Greenwood	Mrs C Bailey (Minutes Secretary)
	Dr H Harper (Honorary Secretary)	
Apologies:	Mr & Mrs I Barnes, Mr G Elliott, Mr I Fenwick, Mr M Holmes, Mr B Lambert, Mrs G Long and Mr J Summerscales	

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received as above.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

On a proposal by Mr Dawson, seconded by Mrs Connington, the Minutes of the last meeting held on 1 April 2010 were accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Dr Harper reported that an article about the Benevolent Fund had been published in NDT News. Further articles would be published as and when necessary.

4. Report of the Board

The Chairman, Mr Wallace, gave the following report:

'The Fund now has 99 annual members, 22 of whom have signed up to gift aid their subscriptions, and 106 life members, 15 of whom have signed up to gift aid their subscriptions, which is still just over 10% of the Institute members. I would like to point out that gift aiding your subscription does not cost the



NEWTON BUILDING
ST GEORGE'S AVENUE
NORTHAMPTON NN2 6JB UK
TEL: +44 (0)1604 89 3811
FAX: +44 (0)1604 89 3861
Email: info@bindt.org
www.bindt.org

individual anything but it benefits the Fund as we can claim the tax back. We reclaimed £263.27 from HM revenue and Customs and I would like to thank Harry, Joan and Cindy for all the work they put in to setting this up.

We again assisted eight retired/unemployed members with membership subscriptions and two with contributions towards mobility scooter servicing and insurance. Total expenditure was £1995 from the Benevolent Fund account. Income from membership subscriptions, events organised by Branches and the Prestige Raffle raised £4711. The excess of income over expenditure was £2716. Two Branches, the East Midlands and Yorkshire, donated the balance of their current accounts to the Fund as they had been dormant for years and the bank was applying charges. Mr J Hamilton who has now left the Institute donated his subscription which had already been paid. These additional sums were very much appreciated.

The accounts have again been audited by Mr C A Vallender who found that we could claim an additional £50+ from the Inland Revenue. This is now being done. I would like to thank Mr Vallender for his help with this and also for his refusal to accept any payment for auditing our accounts.

We are still reliant on being notified about people in need of assistance, so if you hear of anyone then please let either, your Branch Welfare Officer, myself or the Institute know and I can assure you that someone will follow it up. I have now got people from all areas apart from South Wales and the Solent to act as Branch Welfare Officers.

I would like to thank Gail Long, Harry Harper, Joe Buckley, John Hansen, Wayne Woodhead, Cindy Bailey, Marian Lennon and everyone else who organised the Prestige Raffle at the conference and the companies and individuals who donated prizes and supported the raffle.

The fund is currently standing at £84,919 so we are still creeping up, however, my target is still to see it get into six figures.

There have been no further developments yet regarding the possible association with ICorr but we are monitoring the situation very carefully. Both Roger Lyon and Martin Dawson are on the committee and looking after our interests.

Please carry on with your fund raising and try to recruit more members to the Fund.

There is a proposal on the agenda under item 8, for an amendment to the rules, details of which have been circulated to all members of the Fund.

Thanks again for your support'

The Chairman reported that another donation had been made to the Fund from a member in Romania who donated his prize for winning the Sudoku puzzle in NDT News.

With regard to ICorr, the Chairman pointed out that, if ICorr ever became part of BINDT, we would want to know what effect this would have on the Benevolent Fund.

Dr Gardner then suggested that £40,000 of the Benevolent Fund could be put into a bank account with the best, higher rate of interest. We have a continued problem with getting a good rate of interest from a bank for a charity account and Mr Wallace agreed that this would be worth looking into. The Benevolent Fund has one account with Northern Rock which gives less than 1% interest. Mr Wallace asked if anyone was aware of a bank or building society that would give a good return on a charity account to let him know.

Mr Quirk suggested that we could call upon Jupiter Asset Management to look at holding some of the Fund. Mr Lyon agreed that this may be an option although there would be some risks associated with this.

GL The Honorary Treasurer will be asked to look into these options and report back.

Mr Lyon clarified the position with ICorr. BINDT and ICorr are two organisations, working closely together and collaborating on a number of issues. However, in terms of the Benevolent Fund, ICorr has its own arrangements and there has never been any discussion on collaboration of Benevolent Funds. Anything that was discussed on this would of course be reported back to the Benevolent Fund Board.

With regard to Gift Aid, Mr Lyon pointed out that only a few of the annual members had signed up for Gift Aid. Perhaps it would be appropriate to send out a Gift Aid form with the renewal notice.

RL Mr Heigold suggested that we should include a facility for members to pay their Benevolent Fund subscription out of a different bank account. Mr Lyon offered to look into developing the renewal notice in this regard.

5. **Accounts to 31 December 2010**

The accounts, audited by Mr Vallender were circulated. On a proposal by Mr Lyon, seconded by Mr McCarroll the accounts were unanimously approved.

6. **Election of Officers to the Board**

Mr Wallace advised that the current members of the Board were all willing to remain in their positions. On a proposal by Mr Dunhill, seconded by Mr Webb, the Board was therefore re-elected as follows:

Mr Peter Wallace	(Chairman)
Dr Harry Harper	(Honorary Secretary)
Mrs Gail Long	(Honorary Treasurer)
Mr Steve Barton	
Mr Martin Dawson	
Mr Gary Elliott	
Mr Roger Lyon	

7. **Election of Auditors**

On a proposal by Mr Lyon, seconded by Mr Dawson, it was agreed that we should continue to use Mr Vallender to audit the Benevolent Fund accounts.

8. **Special Business – Alteration to the Rules of the Benevolent Fund**

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting on the proposal from Mr Dawson that we add a new Charitable Objective (c) to Section 3. Objects:

“(c) To render assistance in exceptional circumstances to necessitous persons who are working or have worked in non-destructive testing but who are not and never have been members of the Institute, their spouses, widows, widowers, children or dependents.”

Add a new clause to Section 16. Applications for Assistance

“(e) All applications for assistance by or on behalf of necessitous persons who are working or have worked in non-destructive testing but who are not and never have been members of the Institute, their spouses, widows, widowers, children or dependants shall be referred to all members of the Board”.

The Chairman clarified that, at the moment, at least three members of the Board have to agree to offer support but, under the new proposal, any request would have to be referred to all members of the Board

Prof Gelman requested that Condition Monitoring be added to the amended clause. It was therefore agreed that the wording should be changed to:

“(e) All applications for assistance by or on behalf of necessitous persons who are working or have worked in non-destructive testing and condition monitoring but who are not and never have been members of the Institute, their spouses, widows, widowers, children or dependants shall be referred to all members of the Board”.

Prof Gelman requested that condition monitoring be added to the amended clause. However Dr Harper stated the current position, which is that “non-destructive testing” includes all the disciplines that fall within the remit of the Institute.

Dr Harper stressed that, under the new clause, people that were not members of BINDT would only be helped under exceptional circumstances.

Mr Lavender's view was that anybody that has supported the Institute via certification etc. should also be eligible for assistance from the Fund.

Dr Harper advised that consultation had taken place with Council and all Benevolent Fund members, as well as Branches and Associate members that have donated money towards raffle prizes. We have therefore covered everyone that has an active interest in the Benevolent Fund.

Dr Harper then informed the meeting of the feedback that had been received from the consultation process. Eight responses have been received, only one of which was against the amendment

Dr Harper advised that Peter Best had also written about this issue in 2005 and asked how we could even consider increasing the scope of the Fund when the Fund only has 10% support from members of the Institute. Mr Best had concluded that we should not increase the benefit of the Fund until the majority of Institute members join the Benevolent Fund.

Mr Elliott had asked Mr Lavender to pass on his vote in favour of the change to the rules.

Mr Lyon advised that the West of England Branch had felt that all members of the Institute should have been consulted, whether or not they contributed to the Benevolent Fund. The view of the West of England Branch now was that the membership had been adequately consulted and the Branch was now in favour of the proposal.

Any change to the rules required a two-thirds majority vote of those present at the meeting and eligible to vote. The change would also have to be formally approved by the Charity Commission.

Mr Lavender pointed out that the amendment to the rules could result in an increased number of claims from people overseas and asked how these claims would be verified. Mr Wallace advised that so far we have only received one claim from an overseas member and he had verified the claim himself. Ideally we need to have Welfare Officers in all areas.

Mr Lavender expressed concern about opening up a fund that had been built up for a specific purpose and believed that, if this amendment was approved, we would no longer be able to use the Benevolent Fund as a benefit of membership.

Mr Lyon pointed out that the purpose of the vote was to give authorisation to the Board to consider requests for assistance, in exceptional circumstances, from people who are not or never have been members of BINDT. However, it is not the intention to broadcast this fact all over the world.

Mr Woodhead asked for clarification of the term 'involved with NDT'. Dr Harper replied that there were a number of grey areas; there was no formula that Board members needed to follow but they needed to use their discretion. It must be remembered that the Board members are elected to make judgements in tricky situations.

Mrs Connington asked for clarification as to the number of people present who were eligible to vote and it was established that there were 13 voting members in attendance.

Mr Lyon seconded the proposal and a vote took place. With 12 members voting in favour, 0 against and 1 abstention, the motion to change the rule was carried.

HH Dr Harper will write to the Charity Commission to request formal approval of the change to the rules.

9. **Any other business**

There was none.

10. **Date of next meeting**

The next AGM will be held on the same day as the first Council meeting of 2012 – exact date to be advised.

PETER WALLACE  6/5/2011
CHAIRMAN

HAROLD HARPER  11/5/2011
HON. SECRETARY