



The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing

# BENEVOLENT FUND

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## MINUTES OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF NDT

### BENEVOLENT FUND AGM

WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024

### THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, TELFORD

<b>Present:</b>	Mr P Wallace (Chair)	Prof K Kirk
	Dr H Harper (Honorary Secretary)	Mrs C Mackle
	Mr K Quirk (Honorary Treasurer)	Mr S Mills
	Ms C Bull	Miss R Mulholland
	Mrs K Cambridge	Mr S Poucher
	Mr S Cunningham	Mr P Shah
	Dr J M Farley	Mr R Watson
	Mr J Hansen	Mr D Wylie
	Mr P Heath	Mrs C Bailey (Minute Secretary)
	Prof A Hope	

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#### 1. Apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed all to the 2024 AGM of the BINDT Benevolent Fund.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr T Dunhill, Mr G Elliott, Mr J Moody and Mr J Summerscales.

#### 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

On a proposal by Ms Bull, seconded by Dr Farley, the minutes of the 2023 AGM were unanimously approved as a true record.

#### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous AGM

There was a suggestion by Mr S Mills last year that the Board should consider raising the fees and it was agreed that the Board would discuss this at their next meeting. The Board has discussed this but agreed that, as our funds are quite healthy, an increase in fees was not necessary at this time.

Mr Quirk reported that we are looking at ways of increasing funds possibly by linking this to membership renewals. This would tie in with the BINDT website upgrade and it was noted that the Corporate Member Patronage Scheme is now in place.

#### 4. Presentation of the Annual Report

The Chair gave the following report:

*'The Board has held three successful Zoom meetings this year discussing ways to improve our funding, one of which was the introduction of Corporate Patronage which the Honorary Secretary would go into more detail under agenda item 11.*

*We also held a successful Zoom meeting with the Branch Welfare Officers to clarify their roles and the role of the Fund in assessing and providing assistance and are intending to repeat this during the coming year.*

*Assistance has been granted to seventeen members this year, details of which are in the Annual Report which is included in the Accounts.*

*Our thanks go to Robert Smith who retired from the Board during the year due to other commitments and also to Gary Elliott who is retiring now. Their contribution to the Board was very much appreciated and we wish them both a happy retirement.*

*Our thanks also go to the Institute, especially Cindy Bailey, Prinal Shah, Elaine Gerrish and Jennifer Cook and also to Andrew Clifford of DNG Dove Naish, for acting as an Independent Examiner for our Annual Accounts. Their help is very much appreciated.*

*I would also like to thank the other Trustees and members of the Fund and those who contributed through sponsorship, generous donations, arranging events, buying raffle tickets and giving their time when requested.'*

## **5. Presentation of the Annual Accounts**

K Quirk reported that the Fund received a very generous bequest from the estate of the late Mr D S M Mitchell which gave us a surplus of £4774.00. Without this donation, there would have been a slight deficit on our figures. We also received a donation from Sam Cunningham and the Early Careers Branch members who did a Tough Mudder challenge. We received a small amount of tax back and we had the raffle appeal to our Corporate Members. Income from raffle ticket sales was almost the same as the previous year and thanks were extended to John Hansen and his team.

In 2023 the Fund supported 17 individuals, 11 members of BINDT and 7 people were assisted with professional qualifications. The support level was £5,262, compared to £15,763 in 2022.

Categories of support were:

- Mobility equipment maintenance and insurance
- Professional membership
- Re-training and certification
- Bereavement and support
- Help and advice

Total income in 2023 was £10,535 (compared to £5,278 in 2022) which includes £5,000 bequeathed by the late Mr D S M Mitchell.

Total expenditure was £5,761 (compared to £16,256 in 2022).

The net surplus of income over expenditure in 2023 was £4,774 compared with a net deficit of £10,978 in 2022.

We have immediate funds of just over £20,000 in the Santander current account to assist people. We have £222.00 in the Skipton Building Society instant access account, £50,000 in a Cambridge & Counties three-year bond (matures 2026), £10,000 in a Cambridge & Counties one-year bond (matures 2024) and £11,427 in the Cambridge & Counties 120-day notice account.

Total funds at the end of 2023 were £92,513 compared to £87,759 at the end of 2022.

We have awarded £2,228 in grants so far this year.

**6. Adoption of the Annual Accounts**

By a show of hands, the Annual Accounts for 2023 were unanimously approved.

**7. Election of Board Members and Office Holders**

Mr G Elliott and Prof R Smith have retired from the Board this year. Members of the Board were therefore proposed as follows:

Mr P Wallace	(Honorary Chair)
Dr H Harper	(Honorary Secretary)
Mr K Quirk	(Honorary Treasurer)

Board Members

Ms C Bull  
*Mr S Cunningham\**  
Prof A K Dunhill  
Mr J Hansen  
Prof A Hope  
Mr J Moody  
Mr S Poucher

\*Mr Wallace proposed that Mr S Cunningham be elected as a new member of the Board. This was seconded by Dr Harper and unanimously approved.

By a show of hands, Officers and Board members as listed above were duly elected.

**8. To appoint Mr A M Clifford FCA of Shaw Gibbs (Audit) Ltd (formerly called DNG Dove Naish) as Independent Examiner of the Annual Accounts**

By a show of hands, Mr A M Clifford was unanimously reappointed as Independent Examiner of the Annual Accounts. Mr Wallace expressed thanks to Mr Clifford for the service that he provides free of charge which is very much appreciated.

**9. To agree subscriptions for 2025**

It was unanimously agreed that subscriptions would remain at:

Annual Membership:	£ 5.00
Life Membership:	£50.00

**10. Voting Arrangements for 2025**

The Benevolent Fund requires Members as a condition of its existence. We have Annual Members who pay a fee of £5.00 each year, and Life Members who pay a lump sum, currently £50.00. Members have no special privileges other than the right to vote at General Meetings.

Members live at all locations, some overseas but most in the UK and many members find it difficult to travel to the AGM. The Board values its members and would like to recognise this by making it easy to vote.

An option to adopt Proxy Voting was therefore put forward for discussion. In Proxy Voting, Members can nominate the Chair of the meeting or any other nominated person who must attend the meeting to vote on their behalf according to the Member's instructions.

Dr Harper proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr Poucher:

The Board of Trustees is authorised to introduce Proxy Voting to take effect at any or all General Meetings from 1 January 2025 onward and to make appropriate amendments to the Rules of the Benevolent Fund, subject to agreement by the Charity Commission.

Members agreed that this was a very good idea and unanimously approved the proposal. The motion was therefore carried.

**11. Corporate Patronage of the Benevolent Fund**

Dr Harper said that it is important that we continue to have members and make life easier for them. The Board has agreed that we should have a Corporate Patronage Scheme and leaflets have been distributed to conference delegates, exhibitors, Corporate Members etc.

It is hoped that this will help with funding stability and also that the scheme will demonstrate a caring attitude of employers. Corporate Patrons would receive recognition of their patronage and we hope that this will be a success in terms of the funding and for the Corporate Patrons of the Fund.

Dr Harper commended the Corporate Patronage scheme to members all of whom were in favour.

**12. Any other business**

There was none.

**13. Date of next meeting**

As NDT 2025 is being held in Edinburgh, there was concern that it may be a long way for some members to travel. However, the AGM is more accessible to BINDT and Benevolent Fund members if it is held after the BINDT AGM at the Annual Conference.

It was agreed that we should continue to hold the AGM in conjunction with the Annual Conference and that, on a suggestion by Prof Kirk, if feasible the option of remote access should be provided for those unable to attend in person.

The next AGM will therefore be held alongside NDT 2025 – exact date and time to be advised.