

# THE BRITISH SOCIETY OF DOWSERS

## TRUSTEES REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

### *FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022*

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charitable company's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) 1A (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1st January 2019).

### **INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **Introduction**

British Dowsers is the working name of The British Society of Dowsers. Founded in 1933 it is a national charity offering education and training support to members and non-members through courses, meetings and events and through its annual national conference. In addition, British Dowsers acts as the voice for Dowsing in both the UK and beyond.

#### **President's address 31 March 2022**

#### **Trustees and Volunteers**

Our Council of management started 2021-22 with four Trustees: Graham Wayt as President, Jane Court as Treasurer and Vice President, Richard Fry as Vice President and Barbara Mastropirro as Trustee.

Due to Graham Wayt's ill health, Richard Fry continued to act with the President's delegated authority in order to support Graham until he recovered enough to return to his duties. This also allowed the Council to function in a more effective way and was in keeping with the Society's governing document.

However, at the Annual General Meeting on 2nd October 2021 Graham Wayt retired as the President as he was unable to continue and was not seeking to be re-elected as a Trustee having served for a three year period. Jane Court, who had also served a full term of office for three years retired as Vice-President and Treasurer. Barbara Mastropirro resigned as a Trustee as she was in the process of relocating her home.

However, Jim Doyle, Jonquil Webber and Cornelius Cavendish were co-opted onto the Council on 15th September and Richard Fry was subsequently co-opted as President which enabled the Council to remain quorate. Nick Haywood was co-opted onto the Council on 7th January but unfortunately Jim Doyle had to resign due to personal reasons on 21st February.

We have continued to produce three editions of our magazine Dowsing Today and have been supported by our editor, Chris Taylor and proof readers, Jane Placca and Nick Haywood. A new volunteer, Trish Mills, has also stepped forward to assist who has had much experience in the publishing world. This has been timely as Chris was wishing to stand down at some point and Trish took over as editor in January.

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#### **BSD Office**

As a result of necessary cost saving exercises over the last number of years we now have only one member of staff employed at our office in Malvern who currently works on a part-time basis. However, the work involved in supporting the Society still exceeds our ability to pay for it and we are most grateful to the volunteers who assist us.

Although our website has been problematic for quite some time, we have now moved to a new website host. More importantly Nick Haywood has volunteered to assist with the maintenance and design of new features that will make it more attractive and useful for members to use. He has already planned how to post videos which will be available as 'pay for view' following our Symposium which is to be held in June and where the speakers will be recorded. This facility is for members and non-members but will also make a profit for the Society.

#### **Covid -19**

The Coronavirus pandemic continues to have a serious effect on us. First and foremost, we hope and pray that our members have been staying safe and well during this unprecedented time.

The main impact for the Society has been the postponement of our annual Symposium and Conference. We not only again lost revenue for this financial year because of lost ticket sales but also our shop sales have been reduced. Several training courses have also had to be cancelled.

However, as we come to the end of this financial reporting period, the outlook seems more promising as the Covid '19' vaccination programme appears to allow more of the government restrictions to be lifted and the Symposium that we had planned for in March this year will now be held during June. We also hope to hold our Conference and AGM in September.

#### **Tutor Programme**

Since the BSD tutoring stopped operating a few years ago, there has been a need to review and revitalise the whole programme. Members of a new 'education committee' have been working on the best solution that will ensure any BSD courses will be taught to a high standard by Approved Tutors. The courses will also follow the original educational curriculum. Sue Skinner has volunteered to run a 'pilot course' starting on 2nd April and if successful the scheme will be rolled out to all previous Tutors and others who wish join the Tutor Register.

#### **In summary**

We leave this financial year having experienced a downturn in activity due to the Covid '19' pandemic but with a promising outlook for next year and beyond. We have substantial plans in place and more volunteers coming back into the fold to help make the Society great again. We also have new members on the Council who are just as determined as ever to repay the loyalty of those stalwart members who continue to support the Society throughout.

Richard Fry  
President

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### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mr R Fry	(President)
Mr C Cavendish	(appointed 15/09/2021)
Dr N Haywood	(appointed 07/01/2022)
Mrs J Webber	(appointed 15/09/2021)
Mr G Wayt	(resigned 02/10/2021)
Ms J Court	(retired 02/10/2021)
Mr J Doyle	(appointed 15/09/2021) (resigned 21/02/2022)
Mrs B Mastropirro	(resigned 02/10/2021)

#### Recruitment and appointment of members of the Council of Management

The directors of the company are also charity Trustees for the purpose of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as the Council of Management. Under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Council members are required to be members of BSD and elected by members. The President is elected by members. The membership is invited to nominate candidates for any vacancies on the Council of Management. A range of relevant skills is represented on the Council but in the event of any perceived gaps in skills the Articles provide for co-option by Council to fill vacancies. New Trustees take part in an induction programme, in line with guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

#### Organisational structure

The Council meets regularly to review finances and investments and decide matters of policy. A Office Manager is appointed by the Council to run the day-to-day operations of the Society who is supported as required by additional members of staff. The remuneration of management is set by the Trustees.

#### Related parties

Please refer to note 17 of the accounts which discloses related party transactions.

#### Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed. The risk assessment has been reviewed and updated where appropriate and is used as a guide for Council to manage these risks.

### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

#### Objectives and aims

The objects of the charity are to encourage and support the study and practice of dowsing and its application in every field of human interest; to maintain a public dowsing information service, including a Register of Dowsing Practitioners and a Register of Dowsing Tutors; and to relieve communities, particularly those in less well developed countries, who are suffering hardship by reason of their economic and social circumstances, especially in relation to water supplies.

#### Public Benefit Statement

The charity's Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers and duties.

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### Grantmaking

Previously, the charity had a small research fund available for grant making. As of April 2016 the Charity Commission gave consent to change the objects of the fund and the balance was transferred to the Unrestricted fund.

## ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

### Charitable activities

The objectives of the charity have been achieved through a number of activities which can be summarised as follows:

#### Communications:

- Publication of the magazine, 'Dowsing Today'. Distributed three times per year to members and other organisations.
- Regular e-newsletters each year.
- Regular updates of our social media platform.
- On-going development of our website.
- Regular updates from our President and Trustees to members.
- Liaising with Affiliated Local Groups
- Providing personal advice and assistance to members and the public on all matters relation to dowsing.

#### Education and Training:

- Regular review of our course programme incorporating a range of core curriculum courses. Our plans include making these available online for our members and others further afield.
- Holding an annual conference and symposium providing speakers across a broad spectrum of topics.
- Selling educational books and dowsing equipment from the shop and online.
- Encouraging independent professional dowsers to exhibit and retail their products at conferences etc.
- Publicising and supplying dowsing services to the public via the media.

#### Other Activities:

- To support members on the Professional Register the website page has been updated to enhance their profile.
- Engaging with trainers to deliver the Society's courses and workshops and encouraging them to maintain a high standard of competence. This will assist in current plans to deliver courses online.
- Supporting International dowsing events. We continue to monitor the events of dowsing societies in other countries and join with them via the internet. This will not only support them but enhance the profile of our own Society.
- Raising and distributing funds to assist with the provision of natural water supplies in developing countries

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### FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### Reserves policy

The total amount of reserves held at the year end amounted to £55,329 (2021 £69,898) of which all related to unrestricted reserves, the charity did not hold any restricted funds as at the year end.

After making allowances for tangible fixed assets the free reserves of the charity amounted to £53,572 (2021 £67,283). This includes £54,336 (2021 £52,000) investment funds which are convertible at short notice if required.

The charity needs reserves invested at current levels, as represented by the unrestricted fund, and these need to be invested to generate income to supplement that from subscriptions, donations and activities in order to meet its objectives.

#### Principal funding sources

The charity is funded primarily through members' subscriptions, fees for meetings and conferences and the sale of educational books and equipment.

#### Investment policy and objectives

The Council of the charity invests in common investment funds with the aim of maintaining a balance between income and capital growth and to ensure secure management of the charity's assets. There are no restrictions on either the investment powers of the Council or the way in which the charity operates, except that they must be in furtherance of the charity's objectives and in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Trustees report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

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**Mr R Fry**

Dated: .....