**MINUTES FOR 2023 AGM**

**British Driving Society 18th November Annual General Meeting**

The BDS Chairman, Neil Wray, opened the meeting at 2.30pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. Neil began the meeting with: "Good afternoon and welcome to the 2023 BDS AGM, I know that a number of you were here last time in 2022. It's really great to see you all. Most of you know who I am, but for those who do not, I am Neil Wray, Chair of the Society. Before we get into the meeting, there are a few housekeeping rules and general information:

1. Please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off or on silent.
2. Toilets are out the door where you entered and around the corner.
3. Should the fire alarm sound (we are not expecting any fire practices) the exit is out of the door that you came in, turn left past the toilets and out of the building.

The agenda this afternoon will confirm the minutes from last year; receive the Chairmans report, and the Annual Finances and also to confirm the appointment of Council. At the end of the meeting will be the presentation of awards and the opportunity for questions and suggestions.

Before we start on the agenda, we have apologies for absence from 3 Vice Presidents and also Toby Brown.

**Item 1.** To confirm minutes, a copy of the minutes is on your seat.
Proposer John Dobson Seconder John Snowdon. Carried unanimously.

**Item 2.** Matters Arising from the minutes of 2022. No matters were put forward.

**Item 3.** Chairmans Report.

The report summarized the successes of 2023 and linked the activities undertaken by the Society during the year to the original objectives that were set when the Society was formed in 1957.

There was special focus on Objective 3.1.13 'to cooperate with any other society, organization or body in the furtherance of any of the purposes mentioned in the objectives' and how such cooperation will help as we face in to the challenges that the Society must face in to during 2024 and beyond; SLO, animal welfare, road safety etc.

The report thanked the many volunteers who work tirelessly for the Society; Council members, committee members, area teams etc. In addition, it recognized the contribution of the President and Vice Presidents to the management of the Society. There was also special recognition to the individuals and organisations who had sponsored the Society's activities during the year.

The challenges the Society has encountered and needs to face in to were mentioned. These included membership numbers, rising costs, and the carriage driving community working together for the good of the sport.

The report closed with special thanks to Sue Mills for the smooth running of the Society's office, along with thanks to all members for their continued support.

**Item 4.** Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023. These have been circulated to all persons present. There were no questions put forward on the financial statement.

**Item 5.** To receive the results of the election of Members to Council. This year we have 4 new people joining council – all of which are excellent candidates and are:

**Malcolm Salter** – a long standing member, with a wealth of experience around how the Society functions.

**Sam Searle** - who is the AC for Hampshire and also on the Training and Education Committee. Sam is a key team member and a proper "work horse".

**Natasha Manning** – who is already on the Show Team and has been helping at the Shows for many years.

**Sue Woodcock** – a very enthusiastic candidate who we are delighted to have joining Council.

**Item 6.** Presentations of Awards: Antonia Gallop presented the prizes for the Leaf Spring Turnout awards.

**Item 7.** Questions and suggestions from the floor:

A question was put forward asking why the BDS do not recognise all LHHIs. The response was that not all LLHIs choose to comply with all the elements required to be included on the Society's list of Instructors.

Heather Noad raised a vote of thanks to Neil, Julie and Sue from the floor.

The meeting closed at 15.58hrs.