

## **Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of DSUK**

**The meeting opened via email discussion and website documents on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

### **Present at meeting:**

Lindsay Court, Steven West, Lisa Hall, Geoff Fitzgerald, Colm Feighoney, Sarah Norris, Grant Douglas, Eileen Knowles, Norman Whyte, Edward Bridger – Stille, Peter Wright, Joanne Wiltshire, Sally Gregory, Judy Ekins, Kelly Paxman, Peter Rankin, Sarah Anderson, John Rosenfield, Shaun Murphy, Paul Masters, Jeff Hodgson, Stephanie Sergeant, Caroline Watson, Tim Clark, Simon Hall, Anne Simmons, Fiona Fleming, Gordon Ritter, Jessica Brown, Shona Tate, Don McCutchan, Helen Clatworthy, Edd Jones, Claire Pimm, Gareth Roberts, Carmel Teusner, Mark Kelvin, Catherine Rose, Rachel Davies, Stephen Smaje, Peter Thorpe, John Lawson, Matt Shute, Fiona McKean, Duncan Spink

#### **1. Apologies**

None

#### **2. Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> AGM**

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#### **3. Welcome from the CEO**

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#### **4. Chair's Report**

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#### **5. Treasurers Report**

##### **DSUK Accounts**

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##### **Financial Report**

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##### **5.1 Approval and adoption of accounts**

The resolution is to approve and adopt the accounts.

- The resolution to approve and adopt the accounts was passed by majority vote

##### **5.2 Appointment of Auditor**

The resolution is to delegate the appointment of the auditors to the Trustees and allow them to determine their remuneration.

- The resolution to delegate responsibility to the Trustees to appoint the auditors and determine their remuneration was passed by majority vote

## **6. Annual Review**

### **6.1 Snowsport Report**

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### **6.2 Fundraising Report**

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### **6.3 Business Development Report**

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## **7. Retirement and Election of Executive Committee**

During the census period 2008-2015 the Board has included 27% of people who are disabled or directly connected with people with disabilities.

The Board provides diversity of expertise supporting the governance of DSUK. This includes professional skills as well as experience with the beneficiary group and snowsport sector.

### **7.1 Trustee Retirement**

John Dickinson-Lilley has stepped down from the Board of Trustees and we are thankful for his time with us. John has served on the DSUK Board for 8 years, alongside 2 years on the British Parasnowsport Board and during this time he has moved from recreational skiing to the men's VI world top ten! He has been invaluable in offering his experience and expertise to DSUK.

Don McCutchan has been involved with the charity since 2014. He is an adaptive instructor and we hope he will continue to join us on our overseas holidays and volunteer at the Local group in Hemel. His vast medical knowledge has been of huge benefit to the charity over the years.

The membership is invited to join the Trustees and staff in offering a vote of thanks to John and Don for their service to the charity.

- A majority vote of thanks was given by the members to John Dickinson-Lilley and Don McCutchan

### **7.2 PROPOSAL TO ELECT JOHN PATCHETT**

John Patchett is a commercially focused Chartered Management Accountant with experience gained across a number of sectors, in particular the financial services industry. He has a broad skill set with a focus on Financial Planning & Analysis, Business Partnering, Stress Testing and Strategic Change Leadership. John currently works with Virgin Money UK developing the banks stress testing capability and is an outdoor enthusiast with a passion for snow sports and adventure racing.

- John Patchett elected to the Board by majority vote

## **8 Any other business**

### **Discussion 1**

Steven West,  
Agenda Item 3, Communication Strategy

Is there an update as to the member newsletters which were discussed during last years AGM as the alternative to the production of the yearbook?

During the year, as a member I do not feel very well informed or engaged as to what the Charity is up to on an ongoing basis. Without the catch all of a Yearbook ongoing communication is very important as it is easy to miss important news and progress being made by the charity you love.

Social media posts along with the emailed messages tend to be about fundraising events prior to the event taking place rather than reporting on how the event went. I understand the importance of advertising the events however it would also be interesting to hear how they went and celebrate the success of these events. The live feeds from the Parasnowball were fantastic but the only news following the event I am aware of was a post on Instagram.

The new website looks good although again the latest news section tends to be used for fundraising rather than any general news updates as to what DSUK is doing, eg new staff appointed and good news stories of the charity and its members. Website news section currently showing the upcoming Santa Ski and Santa Run events along with lesson numbers from September.

Is the website going to be expanded upon as the year progresses? There are a few areas which are no longer available – Trustee details, safeguarding signposting, and the history section has much less information than it used to have - for example the previous yearbooks and AGM reports are no longer available and there looks to be no reference to role DSUK had in the success of the Winter Paralympic team.

It would be good to have the information to be able to celebrate and shout about the continuing success of DSUK.

Thank you for your question.

As we reported at last year's AGM, we had no plans to invest in producing a yearbook during 2019 and would be reviewing and developing a wider suite of communications materials. During this year, we focused on regular communications in a wider number of formats, including greater use of social media. Whilst we have made good progress, the CEO report states that staff absences have impacted on planned communications and this is an area where we were unfortunately unable to meet our KPIs for year one.

The team have been updating social media channels and we have noticed members liking, sharing and commenting, and we are grateful for the positive feedback on that. Social media will remain our main source of communication in the interim and we are hoping to build capacity in the communications side of the business this year.



## **DSUK 40th AGM Minutes, 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

We are keen to encourage as many members to participate in our fundraising events so we do focus on promoting these where possible. We note your feedback regarding receiving follow-up information on the success of events and that you would like to see more information about member's activities.

We are pleased that you like the new website, and we will continue to develop and expand it over the coming months. We are sure our members will recognise the big change within the charity in relation to our new strategy. We agree it is something to celebrate and are proud of where we have come over the last 40 years. We want to create a brand which is fun and drives us forward to be a charity and company that people want to invest in. We thank you for your ongoing support.

The AGM closed at 10.00 on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020