

BCTV 2023 AGM — The President's Report

The President's term of office runs from an Annual General Meeting, normally for three years. However, as, by intent, I am only serving for one year I shall be handing over to my successor after this meeting. My report covers the last 12 months.

The year has proved to be one of great difficulty for the association. Our annual membership renewal was effectively sabotaged by the industrial action of employees of Royal Mail. None of the forms that were sent out in January reached members. We were able to partly recover this situation by enclosing a duplicate renewal form with the Spring issue of *The Veteran*. This thankfully produced a good number of renewals but not the amount we were expecting. We do not know if this was also result of Royal Mail industrial action or a delayed Covid reaction. We received some very generous donations but we still ended our 2022-2023 financial year with a greater deficit than we expected. We have covered this by using more of our reserves but this is reducing them to concerning levels.

The Executive Committee have debated what action we could take to improve our financial position. We concluded that it would be wrong to cut our expenditure, for example by publishing our magazine three times a year instead of four, as this would be unfairly detrimental to our members, could reduce membership and would only have a limited financial benefit. Instead we decided we must do our best to increase income, not by raising membership fees but by increasing membership numbers. We believe that our eligibility period of 30 years is no longer realistic because of the way that employment in the cinema, film and television industries has changed. We therefore decided that it should be reduced to 25 years and established that this would not affect the cinema pass. The agenda for today's AGM therefore includes the special resolution needed to change the eligibility period to the lower figure. The Executive Committee unanimously recommends that you vote to approve the change. If approved it will enable us to launch a cross-industry membership drive. Our reserves include an amount to cover the cost of such a recruitment campaign.

I have been able to host two regional President's Lunches, one in Norwich and the other in Birmingham. Both were appreciated by the members who attended. Sadly the number of attendees for these events has steadily reduced. We have therefore decided to suspend these gatherings until the association's financial position has improved. Valiant efforts have been made to arrange more events but this has proved difficult with a least one event having to be abandoned. Arranging an event requires a long lead time and I wish Helen Loveridge

the best of luck in setting up events in the Spring of next year. Meanwhile we have a very special Warner Bros. 100 year tribute to look forward to in October and November.

During the year we lost two members of the Executive Committee to Anno Domino, Sir Sydney Samuelson and Vic Gallucci; Sir Sydney was also a member of the President's Council. Both are missed and we record our thanks for the contributions they have made. I attended the funeral's of both men along with other members of the Executive Committee. We also said good-bye to Stan Fishman as a member of the President's Council. Suitable tributes were included in my Summer President's Letter. This unfortunately missed the publication date for the Summer edition of *The Veteran*. The letter is on our web site and will be in the September issue of the magazine. Iain Smith OBE, an illustrious international film producer, accepted my invitation to become a new member of the Council. He is Chairman of the British Film Commission's Advisory Board, and in 2005 was awarded a BAFTA for Outstanding Achievement in Film. I also acknowledge with thanks James Whittell's time as web master a role he has now handed over to Cliff Baillie, and - at last - the recruitment of a new events organiser, Helen Loveridge.

In fulfilling my role as President I have been given huge support by Kathy Darby, our Executive and Company Secretary, and Bob Stanesby our Honorary Treasurer. I am immensely grateful to them both. I also want to thank all the Executive Committee members who have helped to keep the association functioning efficiently, especially members of the Membership Sub-Committee, Jacky Simons who administers our hugely appreciated and impressive Birthday Card scheme for members who are 80 or over, and my Vice-President Spencer MacDonald whose wise contributions have proved extremely helpful. I wish my successor well and him/her the best of luck.

Tony Williams

17th July 2023