



British Origami Society

Annual General Meeting No 210
Saturday 11th September 2021 14:45 – 16.24
Meeting held remotely as Zoom webinar call

Attendees	Apologies
Tony O'Hare (chair) Nick Robinson Penny Groom Lee Armstrong Steph Moore David Raynor And other members of the society – approximately 70 participants	Lynn Williams

Agenda Item
210.01- Introductions, Welcomes & Apologies Meeting called to order 14:45 Tony thanked Nick Robinson for providing the pre meeting folding session.
210.02- Agreement of Minutes of previous AGM (#204 12th September 2020, via Zoom) Minutes of the meeting were sent out to all members with the August magazine, uploaded to the members' area of the website and presented at this meeting as a true and accurate record. No queries have come forward. All members polled 83% Approved, 17% Abstained 0 Against (77% of those in attendance voted). Minutes carried.
210.03– Trustees Report and Accounts The annual trustees report and final accounts were sent out with the August magazine and uploaded to the members' area of the website. David Raynor presented the highlights- Headline news is that we are in good shape financially. I was a little slow in completing the report and accounts this year due to failure of the laptop on which they were stored. The final version was returned to us by the external examiners late last night and it has yet to be uploaded to the website. However it doesn't differ significantly from the copy that is already there. Due to the pandemic we had to make quite a number of changes in the last year. We had to cancel the 2021 Spring convention at fairly short notice. At the time we decided to cancel it the UK government hadn't officially

put the country into lockdown. We decided we had a duty to our members to cancel it and refund any transportation or accommodation costs they couldn't get reimbursed from the providers. In the end this amounted to just over £700 but some members have since received reimbursements and have given the money back to us.

In terms of membership we decided, when the pandemic struck, that we would offer a special discount for electronic membership of the society at £5 starting at the beginning of the lockdown period. That was quite successful we gained a large number of members that way. The total membership income, despite reducing the subscription was slightly higher than in the previous year.

We then ran online conventions September last year and Spring this year, via Zoom. Plus many of our members have held online mini meetings often attended by members from all over the world. That is great because not everyone can afford to come to a physical convention.

Financially; I cannot understand the capitalist world system but the money in our investments has actually gone up! At the end of 2020 our investments stood at over £713,000.

The main thing holding up the accounts was filling out the section relating to payments to trustees. One of the biggest changes we are in the process of making is the redesign of our website. That involves a company run by Nick Robinson's son. It was all conducted above board; we excluded Nick from any decisions and put the work out to tender. All the other tenders were vastly more expensive.

Tony pointed out that our report, as trustees of the society, is reviewed by an independent firm of accountants.

No questions were asked by the members at the time, but Tony invited all members to review the documents and feel free to contact any member of the council with questions at any time. The council can be contacted, via the website:- <https://britishorigami.info/contact/>

Tony proposed Milsted Langdon be re-appointed as our accountants and examiners for 2022. Zoom poll held. 89% Approved, 11% Abstained, 0 Against. (85% of those in attendance voted). Motion carried.

Tony then proposed the Trustees Report and Accounts for 2020 (as they stand in the members area and are thus subject to minor amendments) are accepted by the membership. Zoom poll held. 88% Approved, 12% Abstained, 0 Against. (84% of those in attendance voted). Motion carried.

210.04 - Subscriptions for 2022

The Society introduced a special e-membership rate of £5 in April 2020 for the remainder of 2020 during the coronavirus pandemic "lockdown" to help people participate in origami whilst confined at home etc. In 2021 the worst of things seemed to be over so we revised the membership to £10. We are still in the middle of the pandemic however so no increase of membership rates is proposed for 2022.

Category	Rate
Junior	£20
Student/concessions	£20
Electronic only	£10
Ordinary	£32
Family	£38
Overseas Europe	£40
Overseas rest of world	£45
US\$ ordinary	\$82

No questions from the floor. Proposal that subscription rates remain unchanged in 2022. Zoom poll held. 95% Approved, 5% Abstained, 0 Against. (80% of those in attendance voted). Motion carried.

Tony also mentioned that the council have discussed offering membership for more than one year at a time. No decision has been made or system put in place for this though it may happen once the new website is up and running.

210.05 - Changes to the BOS Constitution

Last year there were changes to our constitution and subsequent to that it was noted that the role of Vice President needed clarifying. There being an ambiguity in the current constitution about the roles and responsibilities of Vice Presidents.

A document outlining the amendments to the constitution necessary to remove the ambiguity can be found in the member's area of the website.

In short; nominations for President or Vice President are made by the Chair or another person on behalf of the Council. Vice Presidents are honorary members (not required to pay a subscription) and not automatically members of the council or trustees of the society though they may be elected onto the council in addition to being a Vice President.

No questions from the floor. Question should the proposed changes to the constitution be accepted? Zoom poll held. 85% Approved, 8% Abstained, 0 Against. (76% of those in attendance voted). Motion carried.

210.06 - Formal thanks to retiring officers

Saffiya Sheikh – is stepping down from her role as Public Relations Officer. Tony offered many thanks for her work and a round of applause was held.

210.07– Nomination and election of 2021 council

All members of the council officially stepped down. Nick Robinson, as current president, asked for nominations for the post of Chairman. Phil Swinbank proposed Tony O'Hare, David Raynor seconded. No other candidates.

Question should Tony O'Hare be re-elected as Chair of the Society? Zoom poll held. 95% Approved, 5% Abstained, 0 Against. (79% of those in attendance voted). Motion carried.

The following members of the council were willing to stand for re-election in 2022 as follows:-

Office	Elected
Treasurer	David Raynor
General Secretary	Steph Moore
Supplies Secretary	Nick Griffiths
Membership Secretary	Judy Hart
Librarian	Adam Woodhouse
Publications Officer	Paul Hanson
Conventions Officer	Penny Groom
Magazine Editor	Stephen Hill
General Officers	Joe Munro, Russell Wood, Lee Armstrong

Nick Holmes (already a general officer) has offered to take on the role of Web Officer. Nick Holmes proposed as Web Officer by Nick Robinson, seconded by Lee Armstrong.

A block vote was held to re-appoint the existing officers as above. Zoom poll. 98% Approved, 1% Abstained, 0 Against (76% of those in attendance voted). Motion carried.

Liliya Brezina offered to stand as General Officer. Proposed by Steph Moore. Seconded by Bridie Begbie. Zoom poll – should Liliya join the council as a general member? 96% Approved, 4% Abstained, 0 Against. Motion carried. Welcome Liliya.

No candidates were forthcoming for the post of PR Officer.

If anyone feels they want to help out with the council in any way, not necessarily as an officer but perhaps to join any of the sub-group teams, please get in contact. We would particularly welcome younger members with a fresh view point and social media interests.

210.08– BOS Honours and Awards

No awards were given last year as we hoped to be able to present them when we met in person. However this is still not possible so they were announced here and posted out.

Awards for 2021 are as follows:-

The inaugural **David Lister Award** (Given for outstanding contributions to origami research, or similar academic work in educational, academic or therapeutic fields.) **Vincente Palacios**.

Vicente Palacios is a true enthusiast of origami - or rather papiroflexia. For many years he has spread the knowledge of folding paper art, whichever language is used to describe it.

In the days before computer communication was commonplace, he built up a large list of regular correspondents. His letters, written with the help of a Spanish-English dictionary, described his latest adventures. They included his discoveries of early clues of recreational folded paper, accounts of his teaching of origami to the public, and enclosed news cuttings, or his new diagram of an interesting design.

On meeting him, you are greeted by a firm handshake and a broad smile. Soon after Vicente opens his attaché case full of treasures: he shows some fascinating models which he has folded, and you are quickly persuaded to learn them from him. Many of his discoveries are discarded models left from the end of conventions: he always goes to great lengths to find the creators and to publicize them. One of his favorites is a working whistle which emits a surprisingly deafening "PEEP!". This is the popular Pito que Pita of fellow Spaniard Angel Ecija (published BOS Autumn convention collection 1992).

Vicente is an avid historian of folded paper, an author of a good number of indispensable books of teachable designs, in several languages, and a much-loved friend of origami associations and folders everywhere.

A Sidney French Award (Given for outstanding services to origami, rather than solely for the BOS. rendered over a period. Recipients might be long-serving members of the BOS or other societies, prolific authors or given for other significant services.) to **Paul Hanson**.

Paul has been our Publications Officer for 10 years and during that time has brought a new level of professionalism to our publications wing, generating many new booklets as well as revamping older ones. He is responsible for our Amazon publications and is always looking for new ways to promote and improve the Society's output. His many contributions to Council discussion are always thoughtful and positive.

He has been the organiser and chief contact for London Origami mini-meetings both in person & online. He has helped represent the Society at many large events, including the Matsuri Japanese Festival, MCM (Movie Comic Media) Comic Cons, the V&A Museum & other events.

Paul is an active and distinctive creator and artist and his models have been exhibited and taught at BOS Conventions and elsewhere. His love of Science -Fiction has been embodied in a series of short stories within our magazine. He also supplies artwork for the "Creasey and the Paperboy" series of cartoons.

The Council of the British Origami Society is delighted to recognise Paul's work through this award.

Paul Hanson "Thank you for this award. All of the things mentioned in the citation involve other people and shows how are community, working together can achieve great things"

An Iris Walker Award (Awarded for significant individual services to the British Origami Society or to origami in general.) to **Origami Pulse: - Dr Lizzie Burns, Zulay Sayalero & Angela Loveridge**.

Origami Pulse is made up of three experienced paper-folders - Dr. Lizzie Burns, Angela Loveridge and Zulay Sayalero. They joined forces after experiencing first-hand the benefits of origami for wellbeing & mental health, and noticing how much it helps, inspires and motivates people.

Origami Pulse workshops have reached hundreds of people in their local communities. They have held workshops in hospitals for those who are often alone during difficult times. They are also working with people in psychiatric units, expectant mums with complications, adults being treated for bone infections and those in radiotherapy, trauma, A&E and in waiting rooms.

Particularly during the difficult times we are living through at present, Origami Pulse epitomises the benefits origami can bring to people's lives, and the BOS is pleased to make this award to the members of Origami Pulse.

Lizzie Burns "I am very touched thank you. Thank you for all your support. Thank you so much for the donation of papers from the society. They have been given to nurses, in quarantine who are coming from other countries to support our NHS. And we have been working with those in isolation and who have lost loved ones."

Penny Groom "For those who don't know Lizzie has a YouTube channel where she does a class every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm."

An Iris Walker Award to Lee Armstrong *is a dedicated BOS volunteer, as well as being a gifted creator. He has been centrally involved in the organization of several conventions and shared his expertise to allow us to hold virtual conventions during these difficult times. He continues to push the boundaries so that each convention offers more features. He also contributes significantly to the decisions made by the BOS Council.*

His creative work puts him at the forefront of modern origami design. His work has a unique character and incorporates concepts such as volume and tension. He is also keenly aware of using specialist paper to enhance the finished result. As with the work of creators such as Eric Joisel, many of his designs take time and effort to reproduce anywhere near his own levels. This, of course, encourages us to develop our own skills!

Lee Armstrong "Thank you so much. I have done a lot but I have totally enjoyed it all and I am doing it all for fun. As Paul said almost all of those things are a joint effort".

A Vice Presidency to Penny Groom *this appointment has been made in light of a huge contribution Penny has made to the society over many decades including 33years as membership secretary and conventions officer since 2018(ongoing) and as president from 2012-2014. The Society has already awarded Penny a Sidney French Medal, for services to the society (in 1999) and we think it is fitting and appropriate to offer you this additional honour.*

Penny Groom "Thank you very much. I really didn't expect that. I have loved all my years of doing things and hope to continue for a long time yet"

A round of applause was given to each recipient.

210.09– A.O.B.

No other business.

Meeting closed 4:24pm

Date of the next meeting November 6th 2021 –Zoom